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Davos Economic Forum Proceedings Reviewed

PM0202143993 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 2 Feb 93 pp 1, 2

[Aleksey Portanskiy report: "Problems of Russia and CIS Given Priority at Davos Forum"]

[Text] The security of the modern world, the situation in the Balkans, the U.S. role in the world, the formation of an economic bloc in Asia, the ethics of international business, the ecology, and AIDS—that is by no means a complete list of the topics in the program at the World Economic Forum in Davos, which ended 2 February.

Even though the agenda was full of questions of a global character, the problems of Russia and other states which have emerged in place of the former USSR were broached one way or another at virtually all the sessions and the roundtable meetings at the forum.

For Viktor Chernomyrdin, head of the Russian delegation, it was very important, as he said, that his first visit abroad as head of the government should be as part of the World Economic Forum. The Davos forum, he stated in his address at Sunday's plenary session, offers a unique opportunity to establish formal and informal contacts with world economic and political leaders.

Steady economic growth, stable and predictable interstate relations, and the ensuring of safe development are the reasons why the participants in the forum in Switzerland meet each year. The head of the Russian Government said that the creation of a council of leaders of international business for Russia, which will resolve the task of elaborating a Davos concept for Russia, is a tangible and specific contribution to the attainment of these aims. According to the authors' plan, the concept is designed to help the implementation of economic reforms in our country by attracting private foreign investments into its economy.

"What is going to happen to the Russian economy in 1993?" The participants in the forum tried to elicit a first-hand answer to that question on the agenda: In addition to the head of the Russian Government the speakers included Vice Premiers B. Fedorov, A. Chubays, and A. Shokhin. A commitment to the course of reforms, V. Chernomyrdin stressed, remains the cornerstone of the Russian Government's policy. The process of reforming economic life is not easy for a country like Russia, and the time assigned to it is not all that long. The premier called the elimination of the threat of hyperinflation the "number one problem" at the present stage.

The solidarity and support of the world community remain exceptionally important for Russia. In this connection Chernomyrdin drew the attention of the session's participants to the problem of restoring its solvency. The time has passed, he noted, when one state's loss meant another state's gain. In today's world one country's difficulties can turn into losses for all.

The forum held a special session devoted to ethnic problems in the former USSR. Although all kinds of accusations are being leveled against Russia, it still plays a definite stabilizing role, H. Carrere d'Encausse, member of the Academie Francaise and a major specialist on the national and political problems of the former Union, stated. S. Stankevich, adviser to the Russian president, drew the participants' attention to the complex position of the Russophone population outside Russia—a problem about which, in his opinion, the public in the West has only a very approximate idea.

Professor M. Zandle of Harvard University stressed the special significance of the adoption of a new constitution in Russia which should define relations between the various branches of power. The professor's opinion was shared by St. Petersburg Mayor Sobchak.

There was a lively reaction to the proposal put forward by the Ukrainian president on creating an international fund for assisting nuclear disarmament. He was actively supported by FRG Minister of Defense Ruehe. S. Shushkevich, chairman of the Belarus Supreme Soviet, said that the Ukrainian idea was interesting but needed detailed study.

Belarus' Shushkevich on Currency, Nuclear Disarmament

WS0202133393 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1300 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] At the news conference held in Davos, Switzerland, [Belarusian Supreme Soviet Chairman] Stanislav Shushkevich told the world press about the problems that Belarus is facing. Answering the question on the republic's transition to its own currency, he said that the main objective was to create an efficient economy and the currency was merely a means of achieving this goal.

The reporters were also interested in the Belarusian stance on the nuclear disarmament issue. Our stance is distinct, said Stanislav Shushkevich. We are advocating our republic's non-nuclear status, but Belarus is not destroying the nuclear missiles deployed on its territory because it did not build them. These advanced weapons belong to Russia, and according to the bilateral agreements, they will be removed from our territory. This process could be accelerated but its costs are an obstacle. This is why this is an economic issue, and the aid that we have been receiving is insufficient.

Shushkevich termed the Davos proposal by Ukrainian President Kravchuk on the creation of an international fund for the promotion of nuclear disarmament interesting. Still, this issue needs a detailed study.

Russia's Shokhin Views Reform Prospects, Problems

LD0202181593 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0939 GMT 2 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Konstantin Pribytkov]

[Text] Geneva, 2 Feb (TASS)—Russian Vice Premier Aleksandr Shokhin, who has been taking part in the work of the World Economic Forum in Davos, has made a brief visit to Geneva. On Monday [1 February] he met leaders of a number of international organizations in Geneva and representatives of business circles and gave a lecture in the Geneva Institute of International Relations.

The Russian government intends to follow the path of reform, the vice premier announced in his address to professors and students of the institute and representatives of the diplomatic corps. In the one and a half months which have passed since the formation of the new government, he stressed, there has been no reason to doubt the government's intention to continue the course of economic transformations which were started in November 1991.

Speaking about foreign support for reforms in Russia, A. Shokhin said he is in favor of the restructuring of the country's debt by its creditors, the normalization of trade and economic relations with foreign partners, and the lifting of COCOM restrictions imposed by the West. Russian exporters are experiencing great difficulties on the world markets; to a significant extent, this is related to the existence of discriminatory barriers, he noted. For example, Russia could easily carry out commercial satellite launches but for the discriminatory attitude on the part of the major countries in this field. Another example is the anti-dumping investigation on Russian uranium which went on for many months. Here there is clearly an intention to edge out Russian exporters, Shokhin thinks.

All this does not mean that Russia does not value the support of international financial institutions and bilateral credit lines. Good relations are being forged with the World Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. A $600 million World Bank loan intended for rehabilitation is beginning to be used. Without direct foreign investment, it will be difficult for us to solve the problems which the Russian economy faces, the vice premier noted. The government understands this and is taking steps to attract capital investment. "Deficiencies" in legislation are being eradicated, the organizational infrastructure is being set up, and financial mechanisms are being replaced.

There is every possibility that the Russian economy can be stabilized in the very near future, A. Shokhin said in conclusion, after stressing that the country's government is, on the whole, relying on its own powers—practicing moderately tight financial and economic policies, measures to bring about structural change, and support for industries and enterprises which offer good prospects.

Kazakhstan's Nazarbayev Continues European Visit

OPEC-Style Organization Considered

LD0102031893 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0200 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] In February, Russia, Kazakhstan, and Azerbaijan will consider the possibility of setting up an organization to coordinate their actions in oil sales, analogous to OPEC. Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev revealed this at a news conference in Davos, where he is taking part in an annual session of the World Economic Forum.

Meets Belgian, NATO, EC Leaders

LD0202203393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1721 GMT 2 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shashkov]

[Text] Brussels February 2 TASS—Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev has completed a two-day official Belgian visit.

When in Brussels, the Kazakh leader was received by King Baudouin and had negotiations with Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene to discuss prospects for the development of mutually beneficial relations between the two states and a number of international issues.

A joint declaration signed on negotiations completion stressed Belgium and Kazakhstan intend to be partners on the basis of principles of democracy, economic freedom and social justice. Both sides expressed their determination to consolidate relations of friendship and soon sign a memorandum to outline specific goals in various areas of cooperation.

A central visit event was Nazarbayev's visit of the NATO headquarters. Speaking to permanent representatives of the organization member-countries, the president informed them on Kazakh efforts to consolidate peace and stability in the Asian region and called for the expansion of cooperation with NATO, whose experience would be useful in the republic's creation of national armed forces.

NATO Secretary-General Manfred Woerner praised the Kazakh course on the development of democracy and holding of economic and social reforms, as well as Kazakh stand on safety provision. He stressed Kazakhstan, thanks to its geographic position and economic potential, is bound to play an important role in consolidation of stability in Asia.

Negotiations held by the Kazakh leader with head of the EC Commission Jacques Delors dwelt on expansion of relations between the European Communities and Kazakhstan.

The negotiations stressed the EC and Kazakhstan stand for the preservation of the single economic space on territory of the former Soviet Union and enhanced integration processes in countries of the Commonwealth. Both sides see this as the major prerequisite to overcome difficulties the new independent states are facing in the transitional period.

The sides also discussed the conclusion of an agreement on partnership and cooperation between the European Community and Kazakhstan to signify a qualitatively new level in development of their relations. They called for the soonest beginning of negotiations to elaborate the agreement.

The meeting at the EC Commission witnessed signing of an agreement on representations exchange between the EC and Kazakhstan.

Today Nursultan Nazarbayev left for Vienna.

Visits NATO Headquarters

LD0102214693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2105 GMT 1 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shashkov]

[Text] Brussels February 1 TASS—President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan who is on an official visit in Brussels, visited the NATO headquarters on Monday [1 February]. The president met with NATO Secretary-General Manfred Woerner and spoke to the permanent representatives of member states of this organisation.

In his speech Nursultan Nazarbayev set forth a concept of Kazakhstan on the strengthening of peace and stability in Asia, specifically dwelling on the proposal advanced by his country on organizing a conference on cooperation and confidence-building measures on the Asian continent. He expressed hope that this idea would be backed by the NATO as it pursued a common goal: to maintain peace, stability, democracy and progress.

Nursultan Nazarbayev spoke for extending cooperation with the NATO and noted that the rich experience of this organisation may be very helpful to Kazakhstan in a no easy process of forming its own armed forces. The Kazakh president called the NATO to take part in rendering medical aid to victims of the nuclear tests which were carried out on the territory of the republic, and in the elimination of their ecological consequences.

Meets Austrian Federal Chancellor

LD0202212993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2107 GMT 2 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Kuzmin]

[Text] Vienna February 2 TASS—A meeting of Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev and Austrian Federal Chancellor Franz Vranitzky discussed here today aspects of bilateral cooperation, primarily in the economy.

At a news conference upon the meeting completion the Kazakh president and the Austrian federal chancellor expressed satisfaction with results of their negotiations. Vranitzky said the meeting specified many aspects of further development of economic contacts between the two states and outlined new areas of cooperation.

Kazakhstan has rich raw material resources and Austria has highly-efficient technologies. The chancellor stressed the past period of cooperation between Kazakhstan and Austria can be a vivid example of successful joint investments.

Nazarbayev said in a period, which passed since his latest visit to the Austrian Republic in February, 1992, the countries have fulfilled a number of joint projects. Eighteen large contracts in various spheres of economic activities have been concluded by the two countries' firms over the past year.

The president stressed during the current Austrian visit he would like to attract attention of Austrian businessmen to prospects for cooperation with Kazakh enterprises and firms in the spheres of electronics, machine-building, agricultural production and development of infrastructure.

Tajik, Russian Leaders To Discuss Cooperation

LD0202213093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1615 GMT 2 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Moscow, 2 Feb (TASS)—A meeting between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Tajikistan Supreme Soviet Chairman Imamali Rakhmonov is planned in the near future. This meeting may produce a treaty on friendship and cooperation. This was reported today at a special briefing by Leonard Mashkovtsev, chief of the Central Asia Department of the CIS Department of the Russian Foreign Ministry.

According to him, Moscow has always respected the right of Tajiks to choose the leadership and the power structure in their country. The diplomat noted in this connection that the text of the treaty was initialled as far back as last April and has undergone no changes in spite of the change of powers in Tajikistan. Speaking of the scale of the aid being given by Russia, he said that humanitarian consignments valued at 156 million rubles [R] have been sent to Tajikistan, and noted that maintenance of the 201st Division costs R2.3 billion and guarding the border costs R700 million.

The Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs is counting on the Russian Supreme Soviet, after it resumes its work next week, to adopt a decision about sending a military contingent of up to one battalion, which will become a part of the CIS collective peacekeeping forces.

Mechislav Senkevich, Russian ambassador in Dushanbe, who took part in the briefing, characterized the change of power in Tajikistan in the following way: "The grouping which strives to create a secular, democratic state won, and by constitutional means." According to him, the people of that country, who have been living in a state of uncertainty here since February 1990, are tired, and are ready to agree to any step that gives hope of accord and economic order.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 3 Feb

LD0302063793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0620 GMT 3 Feb 93

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow February 3 TASS—Newspapers highlight today the 50th anniversary of the defeat of Nazi troops at Stalingrad, which is a memorable date for all progressive mankind.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA carries the text of President Yeltsin's address on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Stalingrad battle. After paying tribute of respect to participants in that battle which lasted for many months, as well as to the memory of those who were killed there, the president said, getting back to the current situation in the country: "We shall overcome all hardships, and we shall win, because we have the stalingrad victory behind. When I say 'win,' I mean that we shall ensure a prosperous, full of dignity and free life for Russia and its citizens, health for its economy, as well as the prestige for our country in the international arena."

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA and TRUD give wide coverage to the celebrations that took place in Volgograd (previously called Stalingrad) on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the battle, which actually changed the course of the Second World War. TRUD describes the victory of the Red Army at Stalingrad as a "feat for all times."

Both newspapers carry a report about a telephone conversation on Tuesday between President Yeltsin and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl. Both leaders reiterated the resolve of the two nations to achieve final reconciliation.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA publishes an interview with Major General Boris Dyukov, second commander of the Russian troops in the Transcaucasian region, under the headline "Will Russian Troops Remain in Georgia?" In his opinion, "if the Georgian leadership continues to insist that the peacekeeping forces in Abkhazia and South Ossetia should be subordinated to the command of the Russian troops in the Transcaucasian region, I think we should leave this country." Dyukov stressed that the Russian troops could remain there "only for protecting Georgian territory against outside aggression."

Major General Vyacheslav Savinov, head of the Central Food Department at the Russian Defence Ministry, told in a KRASNAYA ZVEZDA interview about the Russian army's food supply. According to Savinov, "food deliveries for the army, as well as the supply of other goods for servicemen, are carried out on a priority basis and are entered on the list of Russia's state needs."

TRUD carries an article about the tragic fate of Niku Ceaucescu, the son of the late Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceaucescu.

P.S. Since KRASNAYA ZVEZDA and TRUD were the only newspapers that reached ITAR-TASS last night, a supplement to the press review may be circulated this morning.

Foreign Ministry Seeks Kozyrev-Christopher Meeting

OW0202152493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1514 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, Igor Porshnev, and Dimitriy Voskoboynikov: from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The diplomatic establishments of Russia and the USA are engaged in preparations for a meeting between their chiefs. However no concrete date or place for a meeting between Andrey Kozyrev and Warren Christopher have been fixed yet, DP [Diplomatic Panorama] was told by a highranking official of Russia's Foreign Ministry in charge of relations with North America. He made it clear that Russian officials would like to conduct this meeting "as soon as possible". "We'll be willing to hold it as soon as the Americans proclaim their readiness," the diplomat said.

He didn't rule out the possibility that the USA will try to postpone the proposed meeting "maybe till late February". "The team of President Bill Clinton will evidently need time to take over and determine its foreign-policy priorities," said DP's interviewee.

With reference to the place where the Russian Foreign Minister and the American Secretary of State are to meet, the diplomat said that Russia is ready to consider any "sensible" American suggestions. "We have no predilections in this connection," he said.

According to the diplomat, the proposed meeting between Kozyrev and Christopher will have a "very broad agenda". "It would be wrong to confine it to just fixing dates for a Russian-American summit and discussing how the START-2 treaty is being implemented," he noted. World problems, such as developments in the Balkans, Iraq and Somalia, will not be left unattended, he said.

Article Profiles Ambassador to U.S.

MK0202070093 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 29 Jan 93 p 2

[Article by Yuriy Zaynashev: "They Come From the Same Stock—Foreign Ministry: Our Response to Bill Clinton"]

[Text] Washington journalist D. Broder wrote as follows: "Vladimir Lukin, Russian ambassador to the United States, has long been expressing ideas about Moscow's disenchantment with the West, and the need for Russia, as an Asian country, to strengthen its links with China. The new relationship with China, according to U.S. analysts, points to consistent efforts by Lukin and other politicians to oppose the pro-Western foreign political course pursued by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev."

At the end of 1992 nearly all the papers were predicting Kozyrev's dismissal as a way of appeasing the intransigent opposition. Meanwhile, Western journalists were harassing Vladimir Lukin in the lobby of the Congress with the question: "On what date will you become the minister?" In the past it was common practice to appoint Soviet ambassadors to Washington —from A. Gromyko to A. Bessmertnykh—as foreign ministers. Just how right are the wise men from across the Atlantic? Is there really a big difference between the incumbent minister and the man who is actually his "first deputy?"

Andrey Kozyrev was born in 1951 in Brussels—one of the centers of Europe—into the family of a Soviet diplomat. Vladimir Lukin was born in 1937 in Omsk—a center of Asia. His father and mother worked as raykom secretaries of the All-Union Communist Party (Bolsheviks). His father was arrested, and his mother, after going off several times to try and prove his innocence, eventually never came back. "I was left alone at the age of two weeks," Vladimir Petrovich recalls. "A neighbor had given birth to a baby son three days prior to that, and she fed me until my grandmother arrived from Moscow. Fortunately, when Beriya replaced Yezhov, our oblast was included among the areas where "excesses" had been committed. My parents did not sign any documents during the investigation in spite of being tortured, and therefore they were released."

Andrey Kozyrev did very well in school, and being a "good boy," enrolled in the European department of the Moscow State Institute of International Relations. After graduating, he began working in the famous skyscraper on Smolenskaya Square, and then gradually began to climb up the ladder. His responsibilities centered around the United Nations and UNESCO.

Vladimir Lukin got a post-graduate degree in economics (Asian studies) at the Institute of World Economy, and in 1965 went to Prague to write for the liberal (by the standards of Khrushchev's time) journal PROBLEMY MIRA I SOTSIALIZMA [World Marxist Review]. When Soviet tanks rolled into Prague on the night of 21 August 1968, Lukin went on record as calling it an "occupation," and within hours was sent to Moscow by plane. For several days he seriously expected to land in jail, but nothing happened. Eventually Academician Arbatov gave refuge to the disgraced expert on Asia at his Institute of the USA and Canada, where he worked for two decades. Gradually, Lukin was allowed to travel abroad, and he wrote analytical reports on Pacific policy for the Central Committee Politburo. During those years he was friendly with Merab Mamardashvili, Yuriy Karyakin, Yuliy Kim, and Aleksandr Bovin. On the night of 21 August 1991 Lukin, then chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet foreign policy committee, sat on the dais in the hall of the Soviet of Nationalities, telling jokes so as to divert the deputies' attention from their state of nervous anxiety in anticipation of Yanayev commandos.... Vladimir Petrovich usually describes his life by quoting from a poem by his friend, Kim:

I have been chased by the fleet of Her Majesty the British Queen
I have sat in jail and in an underground hole

A personal scaffold awaited me in Geneva
And now I am here, with you.

At that time Andrey Kozyrev was working in Switzerland and the United States. In October 1990, leaving a promising position at the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he was appointed RSFSR foreign minister. On 20 August 1991 he flew to Paris in order, if things got really nasty, to head a Russian government-in-exile. This is how Andrey Vladimirovich reminisces about the years of "stagnation:" "In 'The Master and Margarita' [novel by Mikhail Bulgakov] there is a certain Lapshenikova who had a permanent squint in her eyes from lying. At that time all our diplomats bore a strong resemblance to her."

When he was still chairman of the Supreme Soviet International Relations Committee, Lukin admitted in an interview with MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS: "At the head of the Russian Foreign Ministry—and I take pride in having made my contribution to this—are real professionals." Presidential adviser Dmitriy Volkogonov is basically of the same opinion: "If Kozyrev had worked as ambassador for a couple of years, everything would have been just perfect." Kozyrev always speaks in a very soft voice—he admits that he does it deliberately—and with a touch of hoarseness in it. He describes his main characteristic as "stubbornness," and he says about his job: "It is a cross that, if you can, you must bear." Kozyrev does not have a city in the world he likes best (the rightists do not favor the minister presumably because they think of him as a cosmopolitan, a "half-Russian"). Kozyrev is fluent in English and Spanish, and Lukin, in addition to these two languages, also speaks French. Vladimir Petrovich is a person with the charming smile of a young man, and large—because of his thick glasses—blue eyes. He is slightly playful, has good self- control, and speaks forcefully, carefully weighing his words.

Here are two statements from the man who is strongly tipped to replace Andrey Vladimirovich.

On 11 July 1991 Vladimir Lukin, competing with Khasbulatov for the Speaker's chair, had this to say at the Fifth Congress of People's Deputies:

"Russian foreign policy ... has two main directions. Whereas the Union's primary direction—the European one—also extended to the Atlantic and the United States, and its secondary one was Asia and the Pacific, the Russian Federation puts Asia and the Pacific first, and Europe, important as it is—given Russia's specific features and its borders with the other republics—second.

"As for Japan... The (Kuril) Islands are ours and it is impossible to give them up, at least not within the lifetime of our generation. At the same time we cannot but improve our relations with this great country, our neighbor."

Here is what Lukin wrote in the fall of 1992 in the U.S. press: "Important both politically and especially economically are Russia's relations with China, which, in terms of priority, should be placed on a par with its relations with Europe and the United States."

So, even if Lukin really replaces Kozyrev, Russia's foreign relations will hardly change drastically. Now that Bill Clinton has come to power, the promises of $24 billion sound less and less convincing, which means that good-neighborliness and collaboration with China will become vital for us. But with Lukin's arrival, will the Kremlin's attitude to its neighbors, the former Soviet republics, change?

This is how he described his creed in an interview with MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS: "In international politics there is a notion of balance of power and interests. We must have not only tears of repentance but also levers of pressure to bring about a compromise beneficial to Russia."

This is how the two men responded to the same question from MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS:

"Are you psychologically prepared for the time when former residents of the 'imperial provinces'—a Lithuanian, Tungus, or Kalmyk—suddenly become equal partners?"

A. Kozyrev: "We should be prepared. This is the only way to preserve the integrating links in a region that occupies one-sixth of the earth. We must recognize the sovereignty of the newly independent states. Then gradually, the moment of truth will come, when it will 'suddenly' be remembered how much we have in common in our culture, and also that the paths of our grandmothers and grandfathers crossed.... We must not build boundaries but make them transparent, opening them up more and more."

V. Lukin: "It is certainly a problem to accept them as equals. Frankly speaking, we all have to work on ourselves in this respect. After all, we are squeezing the slave out of ourselves drop by drop, and the great-power attitude has to be squeezed out, too. In doing so, however, it is necessary to preserve within that "tube" our national identity and a sense of pride. It is necessary to wipe the vestiges of an imperial approach off the face of the Russian state, but not to wipe the great Russian power off the face of the earth.

"If you call into question our centuries-old statehood, it will be recreated, it will revive itself, but in a very crude and brutal form, as has often happened in our history. A sense of proportion is extremely important."

Among the possible options for Russia's foreign policy course aired in the press, Lukin noted the following: "There is an alternative strategy—a union between Russia and the leading 'Third World' countries, and playing on the differences within the Western world, primarily among the United States, Germany, Japan, and China. In other words, ensuring Russia's special security interests not with the assistance of the United States, but despite its wishes—moreover, in a much tougher form, reminiscent of the 'imperial' kind. (Lukin, however, did not say what he thought about this option.)

As long as our Federation remains a military superpower, as long as Russia's leaders have the capacity to destroy the whole world with a nuclear sword, Clinton will not be able—however hard he might wish—to forget the Russian questions. The Kremlin's moves toward greater independence are bound to frighten many people in the States. According to Lukin, they will be seen as "a malicious departure from the essence of the reformist democratic policy of rapprochement with the West."

The 19th-century philosopher Vladimir Solovyev wrote: "Only via the closest possible external and internal communication with Europe did Russia produce really great phenomena (the reforms of Peter the Great, Pushkin's poetry)."

Whose ideas will prevail in the skyscraper in Smolenskaya Square?

Churkin Says Bosnia Arms Embargo Should Continue

LD0202175993 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1700 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin has stated that the international embargo on arms supplies to Bosnia-Hercegovina should remain in force. He said this at a news conference in Cyprus where he is on a three-day visit. Churkin expressed the opinion that the embargo on arms supplies may well lead to a political settlement in Bosnia. Churkin leaves for Saudi Arabia tomorrow for talks with that country's Foreign Ministry and the Islamic Conference Organization on the situation in Yugoslavia.

Yugoslav Envoy Expresses Gratitude for Support

MK0202074593 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 30 Jan 93 p 11

[Andrey Yedemskiy report: "Yugoslav Ambassador Hopes for Russian Diplomatic Support"]

[Text] Last week's events created renewed interest in the situation in the Balkans. Dushan Lazic, Yugoslav charge d'affaires in Russia with the rank of ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary, could not remain indifferent to the Croatian offensive against Serb-held positions (see KOMMERSANT-DAILY of 27 and 29 January). Last week he gave repeated explanations of his country's stance to the Russian Foreign Ministry. Interested in Mr. Lazic's activity, a KOMMERSANT-DAILY correspondent set out for the now sparsely populated ambassadorial palace of the Union Republic of Yugoslavia.

Dushan Lazic is a veteran of the Moscow diplomatic community. He has risen through all diplomatic ranks here—from political adviser in the Yugoslav Embassy in the USSR in 1975 to chief representative of the new Yugoslavia in the new Russia. Despite all the difficulties that have recently arisen in relations between our countries, Mr. Lazic still has warm feelings toward Russia, although he believes it will take a lot of time for the two countries to get used to the new geopolitical realities and become aware of their own national state interests.

Mr. Lazic expressed his gratitude to Russia for the support it has extended to Yugoslavia in recent months, especially last year when attempts were made to expel Yugoslavia from international organizations. He believes, however, that Russia could have acted in a firmer and more active manner "in favor of Yugoslavia." Nevertheless, the role of Russian diplomacy and that of Yuliy Vorontsov, Russian representative at the United Nations, have "recently been extraordinarily constructive," especially at a meeting of the UN Security Council on 25 January which adopted a resolution condemning Croatia's actions. Yugoslavia counts on understanding and further support from Russia, since "Russia and Yugoslavia have common interests." The KOMMERSANT-DAILY correspondent, however, got the impression that Mr. Lazic, showing respect for his host country, refrained from making sharply negative assessments of Russia's current Balkan policy.

Mr. Lazic highly appreciated the diplomatic effort undertaken recently by Russia, which now demands that sanctions be eased and points out the equal responsibility of all parties for the conflict. He dismissed the charges traditionally pressed by Western and Muslim countries that his country was intervening in Bosnian affairs. "The last Yugoslav soldier," he said, "left that republic back in May of last year." Belgrade did not wish the crisis to escalate, and sanctions, according to Mr. Lazic, were imposed by the United Nations unfairly: While the war is under way in Bosnia, it is "the peoples of the Union Republic of Yugoslavia, who have nothing to do with those events," that are suffering from the sanctions. It is time to consider lifting them, because "time has shown that they are ineffective."

Concerning the situation in the republics of the former Yugoslavia, Mr. Lazic pointed out that the crisis had reached tragic proportions because of "the refusal by Europe and the United States to heed the interests of the Serb people." In Bosnia and Herzegovina, as before in Croatia, the governments of those republics did not pay heed to the Serb minorities, who demanded the right of self-determination. The events in Bosnia are "a civil, interethnic war between three indigenous peoples." Mr. Lazic recalled that early last year there was an opportunity to avoid an armed conflict, but the world community scrambled to recognize the Sarajevo government and now "is hurrying to correct its mistake by military means, once again—for the umpteenth time—at the expense of the Serbs." One should not forget, however, that "patience has its limits."

The Yugoslav ambassador is nonetheless confident that the warring factions will draw their own conclusions from the events of the past few years and will solve their "divorce problems," albeit as they have been solved in the former Soviet Union.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Holds 2 Feb Briefing

Denies Violating UN Sanctions on Serbia

OW0202150793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1428 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Foreign Ministry in Moscow views as "a misunderstanding" the allegations of its Ukrainian counterpart that Russia is among the countries from whose tankers oil products were transshipped to barges under the Yugoslav flag, said the chief of the ministry's Press and Information Department, Sergey Yastrzembsky.

In answer to a question from INTERFAX's correspondent he said that the shipment of diesel fuel for Bosnia-Hercegovina by the Russian Salavatneftegassintez company mentioned in the relevant statement of the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry "has nothing to do with this business", since the sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro imposed by the UN do not apply to Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Nevertheless Yastrzembsky pointed out that Russia is willing to closely cooperate with Ukraine in the efforts to strictly observe the UN sanctions, and welcomed Kiev's consent to accommodate international missions monitoring compliance with the sanctions in the Ukrainian ports of Reni and Izmail.

Urges Israeli Compliance With UN Resolution

LD0202151393 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1430 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] During Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin's stay in Delhi, consultations and exchanges of views were held with the Indian side on the problem of the deportation by the Israeli authorities of hundreds of Palestinian civilians. The sides resolved to issue the following agreed statement on this issue, and Sergey Yastrzhembskiy, the official spokesman of the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Affairs, acquainted journalists with the statement on behalf of the Russian side at a briefing held at the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Affairs press center today. Listen to what he said:

[Begin Yastrzhembskiy recording] The Russian Federation emphatically affirms its support for the provisions of UN Security Council Resolution No.799. The key to settling the problem of the deported Palestinians, which is of a humanitarian nature, lies, in our opinion, along the road of implementation of resolutions passed earlier by the UN Security Council.

The Russian Federation, remaining deeply concerned, states that the provisions of UN Security Council Resolution No.799 are still not being implemented by the government of Israel. The Russian Federation deems Israel's action in deporting hundreds of Palestinians to be excessive.

These acts are a serious threat to the attainment of a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in the Near East through talks among all interested parties within the framework of the Near East peace process. The halting of this process would cause profound concern to Russia, which is a co-sponsor, and is striving to promote the continuation of the talks.

The Russian Federation calls on Israel urgently to comply with UN Security Council Resolution No.799, to find a way out of the present deadlock, and to secure the safe, immediate return of the deportees to the Occupied Territories. [end recording]

Views Space Cooperation With Africa

LD0202161593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1552 GMT 2 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Sergey Postanogov and Sergey Ryabikin]

[Text] Moscow February 2 TASS—"A number of African countries have displayed interest in cooperation with Russia in creating regional space TV and information networks", according to a spokesman of the Russian Foreign Ministry, who added that Russia is ready for peaceful space cooperation with all countries of the world and will work to eliminate "discriminative limitations on launches of foreign satellites by Russian boosters and other artificial barriers".

"South African companies are among potential partners", Sergey Yastrzhembskiy told a briefing on Tuesday [2 February].

He added, however, that Russian relations with South Africa will strictly abide by U.N. resolutions and other international commitments.

Russia was the pioneer of space research and possesses a mighty aerospace industry. It has all rights to count on a worthy place on the market of space services, the spokesman said commenting on reports in American and African press which claim that Russia is violating the regime of non-proliferation of missile technologies.

The propaganda campaign is aimed to keep Russia away from the world space market, Yastrzhembskiy said.

During the recent visit to India President Boris Yeltsin said that Russia will supply its cryogenic rocket engines to Indian companies, a deal widely opposed by the U.S.

Views UN Statement on Armenia

LD0202190793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1645 GMT 2 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Sergey Postanogov and Sergey Ryabikin]

[Text] Moscow February 2 TASS—Russia took with profound understanding the statement of the U.N. Security Council president of January 29, 1993, on the Armenian president's appeal to the Security Council in connection with the grave economic situation, which has shaped up in the republic due to the termination of deliveries and unusually severe winter, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Sergey Yastrzhembskiy told a briefing here today.

Members of the U.N. Security Council noted the economy and infrastructure of Armenia and the Azeri Nakhichevan region are on the verge of collapse and there is a real threat of hunger.

The Security Council has called on all countries, having corresponding possibilities, to help fuel and humanitarian aid supply, and on governments of regional countries to permit free access of the deliveries to Armenia and Nakhichevan.

The question has been raised not because of a natural calamity, but as result of the five-year-old inter-ethnic conflict around Nagorno-Karabakh, said Sergey Yastrzhembskiy. Negotiations within the CSCE framework have been on for about a year to stop the bloodshed and open a Minsk conference on Nagorno-Karabakh. However, advocates of the force method of conflict solution have broken peace efforts and continue "to put obstacles on the way of peaceful settlement", he noted.

Sergey Yastrzhembskiy lamented over the fact the authority structures of conflict participants have not shown political will necessary for the transition to civilized negotiation methods of conflict solution.

Responding to the joint statement of the Russian and U.S. presidents of January 3, 1993, heads of the conflicting sides have actually ignored their appeal to confirm the statements on striving for political conflict solution with practical deeds, the Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

Sergey Yastrzhembskiy noted with regret there has been no response to the painful question—why civilians should suffer from a policy of bombings and pseudo-negotiations.

Welcomes UN Resolution on Angola

LD0202184493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1645 GMT 2 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Sergey Postanogov and Sergey Ryabikin]

[Text] Moscow February 2 TASS—Moscow believes the U.N. Security Council resolution on Angola of January 29, where Russia was a co-author, is bound to prevent further degradation of the situation in the country and return the search for settlement in a constructive channel, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Sergey Yastrzhembskiy told a briefing here today.

In his words, Moscow also positively estimates the Addis Ababa meeting of military-political representatives of the government and UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] on January 29-30, when the sides confirmed their intention to continue a direct dialogue aimed to stabilize the situation and complete the fulfilment of peace agreements.

As for Russia, it does not reduce its efforts to contribute to the normalization of the situation and complete fulfilment of the Lisbon agreements, stressed Sergey Yastrzhembskiy. With this aim Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev has sent in late January personal messages to Angolan Foreign Minister Venancio de Sylva Moura, U.S. State Secretary Warren Christopher, South African Foreign Minister Roelof Botha and UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi.

DPRK Envoy on UN Seat for Japan, ROK Nuclear Research

LD0202200593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1832 GMT 2 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Valiyev]

[Text] Moscow February 2 TASS—North Korea believes that Japan has no right to become a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council and that South Korea is engaged in secret nuclear research, according to North Korean Ambassador in Moscow Son Song-pil.

The adoption of Japan as a permanent member of the Security Council "will undermine the prestige of the body" and will promote the Japanese intention to create an "east-Asian sphere of co-flourishing", he said at a news conference on Tuesday presenting two documents of his Foreign Ministry: A statement on Japanese attempt to become a permanent member of the Security Council and a memorandum on secret South Korean nuclear research.

North Korea accuses Japan of failing to "draw a line" under its militarist past as the initiator of the war in Asia in the '30s-40s and of attempting of late "to become a political and military power, to create its own nuclear weapons, to allow its self-defence forces to go abroad", according to the ambassador.

Japan has no independence in diplomatic activity and will fulfill the will of the United States and other developed countries in case admitted to the Security Council, he added.

The ambassador also called on the world community "to pay special attention to secret nuclear research in South Korea".

"South Korean authorities are so actively trying to accuse the North of attempts to have its own nuclear weapons because they want to conceal their own efforts in the sphere", he said, adding that jointly with Washington Seoul has decided to resume the "Team Spirit" military exercises this year to avoid inspections of U.S. military bases in South Korea.

The ambassador confirmed that late in January his country denied access to two objects for inspectors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). "Such a fact did take place", Son Song-pil said.

"The two ordinary military objects" which were not included in the IAEA list had been, nevertheless, earlier checked by IAEA inspectors who did not find anything there, he said.

He added that this time the inspectors were acting on CIA orders and wanted to drill the ground under the objects which the North Korean authorities did not allow.

"This is not a problem of nuclear inspection, this is a military- political problem", he stressed, adding that such demands "contradict the agreement signed by the republic on nuclear guarantees and rules for nuclear inspections. That is why the permission was not granted", the ambassador concluded.

Further on Grachev's Meeting With NATO Commander

PM0202134593 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 2 Feb 93 p 3

[Report by Mikhail Pogorelyy: "From Partnership in Words to Partnership in Deeds"]

[Text] The official visit to our country by General John Shalikashvili, NATO supreme allied commander, Europe, ended 30 January. At the Russian Defense Ministry there were talks between Army General Pavel Grachev and the guest from Brussels, after which the two military leaders held a joint press conference. The main idea heard at it was that in their mutual relations Russia and NATO are switching from statements about partnership to specific cooperation measures. There was also confirmation of the understanding of mutual responsibility for maintaining peace and security in Europe and on the planet as a whole.

Of course, the journalists' greatest interest was generated by specific prospects for cooperation between Russia and NATO on military-political problems. That, the Russian Federation defense minister said, still has to be agreed in the immediate future by experts from our country and NATO. But we can already mention the possibility of cooperation in peacekeeping activity and humanitarian actions and the implementation of search and rescue operations, including at sea. General Shalikashvili also voiced the conviction that it is important to achieve mutual understanding between the servicemen of Russia and the NATO countries at the level not only of generals but also of officers and sergeants.

It is planned to expand contacts—in the form of exercises, seminars, and possibly joint measures under military training plans—between subunits designed to take part in peacekeeping actions (during their preparation and in the zone where they are undertaken). Incidentally, Army General P. Grachev reported that in Russia a motorized rifle division of the Volga Military District has been earmarked as a division of the peacekeeping forces. The formation's servicemen are now undergoing the relevant instruction and the division is using some of its forces to take part in the separation of the conflicting sides in South Ossetia and Georgia. Within three to four months units of this division will be ready to replace our airborne troops in the former Yugoslavia. The formation of permanent peacekeeping units in NATO, either joint forces or at a national level, is not yet planned, General J. Shalikashvili stated.

In addition to peacekeeping efforts, what will be the avenues of the Russian Armed Forces' collaboration with the troops of NATO or individual countries of the bloc? Answering this question at your KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent's request, the Russian Federation defense minister singled out the following:

—possible joint participation in local conflicts which threaten Europe and the security of the whole world. To develop unity in approaches it is planned in practice to hold joint tactical and command staff exercises;

—the solution of questions of preventing the dissemination of aggressive elements of Islamic fundamentalism both on our territory and on the territory of other states in Europe, especially South Europe, which was also confirmed by General J. Shalikashvili;

—opposition to the international drugs business and terrorism;

—the prevention of the spread of nuclear weapons to third countries;

—the continuation of work on the further reduction of strategic offensive and conventional arms in Europe.

The main thing, Army General Pavel grachev stressed, is that we agreed in our opinions that right now the unleashing of a large-scale military conflict, be it with the use of nuclear weapons or even without them, is a pointless action which would simply destroy the entire planet. And a world war would be a real madness and no "nuclear shield" of the kind some aggressively inclined gentlemen are mentioning will save us. Now we must speak not of war, the defense minister stressed, but of how to prevent local wars.

In concluding the press conference the NATO military chief once more confirmed that in the very near future there are no plans for any states of the former Warsaw Pact, including the republics which used to belong to the USSR, to be admitted to NATO. The time for that has not yet come, General John Shalikashvili believes.

NATO Commander Comments

PM0202141393 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Feb 93 First Edition p 7

[Aleksandr Mozgovoy report: "The Horse Guard's Son, or 'Our Man' in NATO"]

[Text] U.S. General John Shalikashvili, NATO supreme allied commander, Europe, is virtually "our man." His father, as is not hard to guess from his surname, is a Georgian and his mother is a Pole. Did his Slavic-Caucasian origins not hinder his career in a country which was for many years opposed to the Eastern bloc?

"Not at all," the general replied to my question at a press conference devoted to the results of the official visit to Russia by military figures of the North Atlantic alliance. "The fact that there is Slav blood in my veins has even, I think, always had a positive influence on my successes. In this respect I was very pleased by my visit to St. Petersburg, where my mother was born and where my father began service as an officer of a horse guard regiment."

Of course, it was certainly not for tourist purposes that J. Shalikashvili and his colleagues came to Russia. Meetings were held in Moscow with Vice President A. Rutskoy and leaders of the Russian Federation Ministry of Defense, and in St. Petersburg with naval seamen.

"The dialogue was active and fruitful," the U.S. general stated. "Now we can say that a basis has been created to move from partnership in words to partnership in deeds."

"The main thing is for us to understand one another better," he remarked. "And not just for generals to understand generals, but also majors majors, captains captains, and warrant officers warrant officers. It is very important that these still young people establish between themselves relations which they can then maintain carefully throughout their lives."

Concerning the prospects now opening up, [Russian Defense Minister] P. Grachev substantially added to his guest's remarks. He pointed to such areas as joint operations to settle crises, providing humanitarian aid in conflict zones, carrying out search and rescue work, including at sea, and organizing staff exercises. More long-term plans include possible collective participation in the local wars that threaten Europe, Russia, and the whole world; operations to prevent the expansion, as P. Grachev put it, "of aggressive Islamic fundamentalist elements" on the territory of our country and European states; scotching terrorist sallies and the activity of the drug mafia; and operations to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

"On the eve of your visit to Moscow you announced in Brussels that the North Atlantic bloc is reviewing the strategy of peacemaking missions, which it is planned to conduct in the future by more resolute means, involving the Armed Forces of Russia and other former Warsaw Pact states. Does this mean that the creation of permanent peacemaking forces with police functions is envisaged?" I asked J. Shalikashvili.

"No, we in NATO do not plan to create a permanent group of forces to maintain peace. The idea is different. It is time that we all realized that, in order to carry out such operations, special and thorough training is needed. We should carry out a series of investigations well in advance and train troops accordingly before sending them to conflict zones. We need to be more flexible, to collaborate not only within the NATO framework, but also with Russia and other countries participating in the North Atlantic Cooperation Council (to which the states of the former Warsaw Pact also belong—Author's Note)."

Developing this theme, Pavel Grachev said that the Russian Ministry of Defense is specially training the Volga Military District's 27th Motorized Infantry Division to participate in peacemaking actions. Some of the forces of this combined unit are already engaged in South Ossetia. The Russian Federation Ministry Of Defense believes that in three or four months the division will be able to take on the fulfillment of peacemaking missions outside Russia and the former USSR. For example, in Yugoslavia, where its subunits are replacing our paratroopers, who are in general called upon to fulfill other tasks.

"NATO certainly does not regard Russia, which has taken the path of democracy and the market economy, as its adversary" John Shalikashvili stressed, taking his leave. "All of us in NATO wish it success. NATO extends to Russia the hand of friendship!"

Grachev Departs for Uzbekistan, Tajikistan

OW0302114093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1104 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian Minister of Defense, Pavel Grachev, took off on Wednesday [3 February] for Tashkent, where he is scheduled to meet with the president and minister of defense of Uzbekistan. On Thursday Pavel Grachev will head for Dushanbe to meet with the leaders of Tajikistan.

The Russian minister of defense announced on the eve of his departure to correspondents of INTERFAX and ITAR-TASS that the basic goal of his trip is to decide the fate of the 201st Russian Motorized Division deployed in Tajikistan. Pavel Grachev expressed the opinion that this division which was composed with the help of Russian cadres, could be the basis for the formation of the armed forces of Tajikistan. The minister also expressed the suggestion that in accordance with the Tashkent Treaty on Collective Security Uzbekistan could participate in the formation of the armed forces of Tajikistan.

Canada's McDougall Begins Visit 3 Feb

LD0302045993 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0300 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Barbara McDougall, Canada's secretary of state for external affairs, is beginning her visit at the invitation of Russia's Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev. This will be a working visit, but Russia's Foreign Ministry did not rule out the possibility that the Canadian minister's arrival was connected with preparations for a visit at a higher level. They recalled that during his stay in Canada last summer, Boris Yeltsin invited Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney to visit Moscow.

Interior Ministry Officials Receive Albanian Delegation

AU0202182493 Tirana ATA in English 1109 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Tirana, February 2 (ATA)—The delegation of the Ministry of Public Order headed by the Deputy Minister Hajri Mezini, which is visiting Moscow, met with the deputy minister of internal affairs of the Russian Federation, Pjoter Lisenko. The parties, Radio Moscow says, exchanged views on questions of mutual interest. The Albanian delegation also met and held talks with the head of department of the Internal [Affairs] Ministry of Moscow, Anatoly Jegorov.

Referendum Issues

Yeltsin To Meet With Government Leaders on Referendum

OW0202174793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1728 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Report by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In view of the forthcoming referendum on the basic provisions of the new constitution, Boris Yeltsin will have a series of meetings with Russian statesmen, politicians, experts and representatives of public movements and parties, and have talks with the leaders of the Russian parliament and government (initially scheduled for February 2, this meeting was put off). Moreover, the president's program envisages his participation in the February 9 conference which will concentrate on the implementation of the constitutional reform in the republics of the Russian Federation. This conference is expected to be attended by the presidents, heads of parliament and government, and chairmen of the constitutional commissions of these republics. On the same day, the Constitutional Commission will gather for a plenary meeting, chaired by Boris Yeltsin. On Thursday, February 3, Yeltsin will meet with representatives of the centrist faction, Accord for Progress.

Observers believe that during these meetings Boris Yeltsin will set forth his concept of the referendum and, most important, respond to the doubts about the expediency of holding a referendum as such, expressed lately by a number of high-ranking officials, and to Ruslan Khasbulatov's idea of early presidential and parliamentary elections, supported recently by the parliament's presidium.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: During the meeting with the local deputies in Volgograd on Monday, Khasbulatov said once again that the April referendum had been imposed on the 7th congress of people's deputies. He also said that at that time, "one branch of state authority was on the verge of falling into an abyss and had no other choice". Khasbulatov urged the local deputies to get prepared for early presidential and parliamentary elections next spring. He also accused some representatives of the executive authority of trying to eliminate the representative authority, setting the public against what they call reactionary parliament.

Earlier Khasbulatov had stated that he had no plans to take part in the 1994 elections, if they are held.

Experts and analysts in the Russian parliament did not venture to predict the president's reaction to Khasbulatov's position. They note, however, that Lev Ponomaryov, a leader of the Democratic Choice alliance, made a statement to the effect that this radical alliance opposing Khasbulatov, "cooperates with the organizing committee for the referendum, led by head of the president's administration Sergey Filatov".

Representatives of the Democratic Choice expressed their negative attitude to early elections on many occasions. First, they believe that it goes against the resolution of the 7th congress of people's deputies on the stabilization of the constitutional system, and second, they consider it to be a gimmick, used by the parliament which goes out of its way to ensure the convocation of an extraordinary congress of people's deputies next March. The leaders of the Democratic Choice fear lest the congress may support only one part of Khasbulatov's initiative—the one dealing with early presidential elections.

Experts are not sure, however, that the affinity of views, shared by the radical-democratic deputies and the head of Boris Yeltsin's administration guarantee similar positions on the most cardinal issues, including the problem of elections and of the convocation of the Constituent Assembly for adopting a new constitution. As we reported on January 14, the president's press secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov stated that Boris Yeltsin is moving towards the referendum as the president of all Russians. Thus the presidential quarters gave to understand that the president had reversed the idea of "his own party", advanced on the eve of the 7th congress of people's deputies.

IF Note: Meanwhile, many of the parliament's centrist parties have supported Khasbulatov's proposal. For instance, Nikolay Travkin's Democratic Party of Russia urged the president and the parliament to include the issue of early and direct presidential and parliamentary elections in the referendum. His party believes that the current authority cannot lead the country out of the crisis, and that the idea of early elections is supported by 70 per cent of the functionaries in both branches of authority, and practically all of the political parties and movements, with the exception of the Democratic Russia movement. The Travkin party has established a fund which will finance the election champaign if it is held.

The parliamentary faction, the Communists of Russia, supports the idea of early presidential and parliamentary elections and urged to include the issue of preserving the post of Russian president in the referendum.

According to reliable sources, the Yeltsin team is not only preparing for the referendum, but is weighing out possibilities of enhancing the strategic institutions of the presidential authority. Some of the variants envisage the restructuring of the presidential apparatus. Our next issues will acquaint the reader with the main aspects of this work.

Yeltsin Forms Commission To Prepare, Hold Referendum

OW0302090293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0843 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A decree by Russian President Boris Yeltsin Tuesday [2 February] has resulted in the formation of a governmental commission to handle the preparation of and to hold the April 11 referendum on the main provisions of the new constitution. The commission will be headed by First Vice-Premier Viktor Shumeyko.

The president's press bureau said that the commission will co- ordinate central and regional executive power bodies in all administrational aspects of preparing and holding the referendum. The commission will also assist the central and regional nationwide referendum commissions in carrying out the tasks set for them.

The governmental commission is to study the draft basic provisions of the new constitution presented by parliament and examine the positions of political parties, public organisations and mass movements to issues concerning the forthcoming referendum. The commission will then submit any appropriate proposals to the president himself.

Yeltsin To Attend Referendum Conference

MK0302090593 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 3 Feb 93 p 2

[Unattributed, untitled report from "In Brief" column]

[Text] Moscow—A working conference on the question of the organization of the 11 April referendum is to take place 6-7 February in the former CEMA building on Novyy Arbat. The initiators are the Coordinating Council of the "Democratic Russia" Movement and the "Democratic Choice" bloc.

The president of Russia, members of the government, parliamentarians, and delegates from all regions of Russia—representatives of political and social parties and movements, farmers, entrepreneurs, and intellectuals—will take part in the conference.

Constitutional Court Chief Suggests Delay

OW0302113693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1104 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] It is necessary to put off the referendum on the basic provisions of the constitution scheduled for 11 April and declare a moratorium on the introduction of the new constitution. The Chairman of the Constitutional Court of Russia, Valeriy Zorkin, expressed this point of view in an interview with "KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA" published on Wednesday [3 February].

In his opinion the sacred right of the people to a referendum could be used "to make the people an instrument of a demagogue" in the struggles of different political forces each of which "hopes that the people in a state of confusion will declared for them". The chairman of the Russian Constitution Court thinks that if the people declare support for their rivals these forces will say that the people were deceived and will once more call for some sort of emergency measures.

Zorkin thinks that the current situation in the country is not an appropriate background for a referendum: "Hyper-inflation, crime, rumblings in the republics, economic collapse." In connection with this he suggested that one year should be sacrificed" [quotation marks as received] in the interest of all and that general elections be conducted at the same time for the president, Russian deputies and deputies of local councils. In his opinion only one amendment is needed to the constitution—on election into the Congress of People's Deputies and the Supreme Soviet. The chairman of the constitutional court thinks it is necessary to "learn to live by the present constitution." In the alternative case the new constitution may not be required since "in the race for the constitution we shall lose Russia," this is the opinion of Valeriy Zorkin.

Gorbachev Argues Against Referendum

MK0302090193 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian No. 6, 7 Feb 93 (Signed to Press 2 Feb 93) p 2

[Mikhail Gorbachev article: "Moment of Choice"]

[Text] Recent events, with the growing danger signs in our life, prompt me to speak out without mincing words.

The crisis in the country is taking on sinister contours. I see the cause of this in the deepening gulf between real life and politics, which, moreover, increasingly frequently takes the form of politicking by rival groups. As someone aptly put it, they are desperately fighting for a place at the steering wheel, without noticing that the car has long since stopped obeying the wheel. But unless these games, the confrontation between the powers, are stopped, we will ruin Russia.

The Seventh Congress aroused some hope of achieving unity. But the compromise reached at the end of the Congress, based on the recognition in practice of the bankruptcy of the course that was being pursued, proved short-lived. Moreover, we keep hearing that the very same policy will be pursued, and the compromise is declared to be a victory. Infighting is stifling politics and confounding it, even where attempts are being made to set it to rights. The assault on freedom of speech and glasnost and the attempts to place the mass media under the control of one power grouping or another testify that some people in power today could no longer care less what policy is pursued, provided only that they can stay "on top." Politics is becoming frankly cynical, first and foremost vis-a-vis the people.

Meanwhile, the disintegration of economic ties, the decline in production, the soaring growth of prices, and the decline in most people's living standards are continuing. Ethno-regional separatism is on the increase. Inefficiency in the state apparatus and corruption have reached a level without precedent in Russian history and indeed in the modern world as a whole. Cooperation within the framework of the CIS is not happening.

In these conditions the referendum idea which has been "tossed" into society as a life belt is fruitless and dangerous. Instead of rallying the reformist forces and broadening the democratic arena, the referendum will only deepen divisions and intensify the centrifugal trends in Russia. In this context, one cannot understand what, if any, is the purpose of the referendum. If we are talking about a choice between presidential and parliamentary models, a presidential republic has already developed in Russia, since the president is elected separately from the parliament and is the head of executive power. And his power, at least under the law, may well be even greater than that of the U.S. president. A further increase in the powers of the president in Russia is liable to result in the formation of a frankly authoritarian regime.

Meanwhile, various forces, albeit for different reasons, are starting to toss the new constitution into the game, proposing various options for its adoption on the basis of the short-term interests of strengthening their own positions. A new constitution is necessary in principle, of course, but it is obvious that in the present situation even the best constitution could prove a hostage to the confrontation between groupings "at the top." This is precisely why I also regard the idea of a Constituent Assembly as unacceptable. Indeed, we do not have enough time left for such expensive operations, the results of which cannot be predicted.

There is disturbing talk that the idea of declaring a "transition period" with special rules [osobyy rezhim] is being finalized in the president's entourage, on the pretext that social instability is intensifying, crime is rampant, and the course of reforms is being "sabotaged" by the parliamentary majority. There is indeed ample fuel to provoke, on some kind of pretext, the kind of situation in which it would be possible to "temporarily" curtail freedom of speech and other civil liberties and suspend the activity of representative organs of power while a new constitution is being worked out and adopted.

Therefore, with a view to preserving civil peace and the democratic thrust of society's development, it is necessary to foster the emergence and legitimization of a new configuration of political forces. I do not know whether the Congress, given the level of confidence and popularity it commands, will be able to separate the warring factions from their "clinch." But this opportunity must be exploited in order to remain on the track of constitutional development. The Congress must assess what has happened since December and how the Supreme Soviet and the executive have acted, and, having analyzed the new government's program, it must attempt to feel its way toward the restoration of accord in society.

If this proves impossible, there is only one instrument for a constitutional resolution of the crisis—early elections for both branches of power, rather than delaying for a whole year. Time is now measured in months, if not weeks.

By opening the way for new forces—forces which have not lost the population's confidence—to enter the structures of power, elections would help to bridge the current gulf between the authorities and society and thereby prevent the socioeconomic crisis developing into open civil conflict.

Communists Plan To Boycott Referendum

LD0202163093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1444 GMT 2 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow February 2 TASS—The "renovated CPSU" (Communist Party of the Soviet Union) will call for a boycott of the upcoming referendum scheduled for April 11 if its questions deal only with a new constitution, said Sergey Skvortsov, "secretary and coordinator of the CPSU Central Committee."

Skvortsov is the leader of the "renovated CPSU" which held its 29th congress outside Moscow last summer.

Skvortsov believes the choice between the questions proposed by the parliament and the president will be a "choice between the bad and the worst." He said both branches of power are responsible for the current situation in Russia which needs not a referendum, but a new policy.

Skvortsov believes elections of the legislative and executive branches of power should be held this autumn, and not next year as some propose, while the Russian presidency should be abolished altogether.

Skvortsov denounced an attempt by leaders of the former Russian Communist Party to restore the party and hold the second (rehabilitating-founding) congress on February 13-14. He said these attempts reflect "disagreements in the communist movement" and an attempt by the nomenclature defeated in the 1991 August failed coup to take over the communist movement.

Skvortsov believes the restoration of the party should begin from below. He said the congress will not unite pro-communist forces as it will take place at a time of fierce political fighting. The Socialist Party of the Working People will play a leading role in the party, which will advocate the "ideology of social democratism and Gorbachevism."

Leaders of the "united CPSU" said they have focused their attention on collecting signatures in support of their own referendum, which will ask only one question "do you support the freezing and further decreasing of prices of prime necessities and the abolition of free prices?"

A working group for preparing the referendum was set up in November 1992 in the town of Sergiyev Posad (formerly Zagorsk) outside Moscow. Skvortsov said "90 per cent of those whom we ask" sign in support of the alternative referendum.

Economic Issues

Chernomyrdin Announces 'Tougher Monetary Policy'

LD0202151893 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0525 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Viktor Chernomyrdin has said in parliament that the government will work toward financial stabilization and the strengthening of the ruble through a tougher monetary policy which will be more coherent than that followed by the Gaydar government. The main emphasis will be on gradual reduction of the budget deficit and improvement of the tax system.

According to the premier there are already proposals to create a ruble exchange rate which would prevent it from being artificially lowered. At the same time the government will not allow any reckless or forced measures in the matter of the exchange rate of the ruble against the dollar. The cabinet intends to stop the practice of giving unjustified credits and subsidies. Chernomyrdin said that in January the government already revised and substantially reduced the credits granted to the fuel and energy complex.

Chernomyrdin's stance looks all too much as if he were his own worst enemy. How did he start his premiership? First he allocated billions of rubles for the development of the fuel and energy complex, and then he signed a decree on fixing prices only to repeal it afterwards. All of this led to chaos with both the ruble and vouchers, credits, and inflation. Many believe that the first 1.5 months of the premiership turned out to be a cold shower for the former Soviet minister. On the one hand this is good news, but all these declarations about continuing Gaydar's reforms but in today's conditions simply mean the repetition of the very same painful transformations implemented by Gaydar which we have already gone through.

Rutskoy Calls For Effective Tax Policy

LD0202203493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1136 GMT 2 Feb 93

[by ITAR-TASS special correspondent Vitaliy Titov]

[Text] Volgograd, 2 Feb (TASS)—Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy has called for an effective tax policy at a meeting at the "Volgogradskiy Traktornyy Zavod" joint stock company. According to him, it is not a normal situation when those who produce and those who act as middle men bear the same tax burden. Taxes on commodity producers should be reduced, he believes. This in turn will lead to a reduction in the prices of products.

Aleksandr Rutskoy learned about the output of the plant and chatted with its management on the problems of the enterprise.

Undertaking a working trip to the Volga region, Aleksandr Rutskoy today took part in a ceremony to mark the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Stalingrad and laid wreaths to the memory of fallen heroes in the city of Volgograd and at the base of the Motherland monument on Mamayev Kurgan. This evening he intends to take part in a solemn meeting to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the victory.

Fedorov Views 'Escalating Economic Crisis'

AU0202195693 Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE in German 1 Feb 93 p 12

[Elfie Siegl report: "The Economic Abyss Is Deeper Than We Thought"]

[Text] Moscow, January—The compromise that Russia's President Boris Yeltsin and parliament head Ruslan Khasbulatov achieved at the Seventh Congress of People's Deputies last December was only temporary. At the moment Russia is experiencing a serious political power struggle between these two politicians and their fellow fighters, which has its root in the escalating economic crisis. This assessment of the situation was made by Andrey Fedorov, chief political adviser of Russian Vice President Alexandr Rutskoy, in an interview with FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE recently.

In Fedorov's view, this year enormous inflation (with new price hikes for foodstuffs of more than 20 percent in Moscow during the first two weeks of January) and a further decline of industrial output are creating considerably stronger barriers in Russia's path toward political stabilization than in 1992. "The abyss into which we have slid as a result of the economic course of the Gaydar government is deeper than we thought." The mistake was that the reforms were expected to be successful within months and not within years.

In addition, the Gaydar government made the mistake of using foreign advisers, such as Jeffery Sachs. Even though these advisers provided economically sensible advice for reforms, they did not take into account the psychology of the Russians or the real state of the micro-economy. "They only saw the macroeconomy; therefore, they failed." Now, however, the issue is the microeconomy in connection with "rescue from the disaster," but the foreign experts do not understand this sphere.

"We have a warped economy. Where else than in Russia are people dragging along bags filled with millions of their currency to pay bills? In our country this is not done via banks but following the motto 'one suitcase full of money for you, one for me.' In Russia the economic-psychological world is completely different."

According to Fedorov, the people in Russia, particularly in the rural areas and in small towns, still do not understand what a market economy is, because nobody has explained it to them. "The people are suffering from the fact that they are only shown the conflicts in the country's leadership instead of explaining the reforms to them," because reforms are not implemented by a government but by the people. "If the people do not want reforms, then there are no reforms." The well-meant advice by foreign government advisers and also by the IMF has negative effects in the long run: The people do not trust this advice. "With this we have created a psychological barrier in our relations with the west for many years to come."

The fact that the economic situation will continue to deteriorate might lead the people in Russia to "very radical political actions, Fedorov says. One indication for a political radicalization is, in Fedorov's view, the reemergence of the Communist Party of Russia [CPR], which was banned by Yeltsin after the failed putsch of August 1991 but has been rehabilitated in the meantime. In mid- February this party will hold its second congress and hopes to gain half a million members by the end of February.

Fedorov: "I am convinced that this party will be the biggest party in Russia by the end of the year and will win in many regions of the country in potential new elections." Thus, in only one month 3,500 basic CPR organizations have developed in companies and universities. In Moscow the CPR now has already more than 10,000 members, more than any other party. Fedorov does not rule out that in the future the communists will bring people who are dissatisfied with their social situation out to the streets for protests. "This is dangerous, because the social arguments are on the side of the communists. It is easy for them, and they can claim: 'The democrats removed us from power, and just look what happened.'"

The new government under Viktor Chernomyrdin is a "synthetic" one and not one that was organically established, in Fedorov's view. With this he also explains the contradictory government decisions, for instance on price regulation and the withdrawal of this decision only a few days later. So far the young ministers of the Gaydar team, who are also in office under Prime Minister Chernomyrdin, continued along their way of introducing the market economy in Russia with shock therapy. For Fedorov, however, the continuation of Gaydar's reform model is a disaster. He sees the way out of the economic crisis in a "far tougher method." The market cannot regulate itself under the existing Russian conditions; therefore, the role of the state must be intensified. "What is necessary is state capitalism."

Unemployed as Political Danger

Fedorov says that the Moscow level of reforms and life and the real situation in small Russian towns, for instance in the Urals or in Siberia, where it means death for a whole town if an industrial enterprise is closed down, are two different things. "We have been saved by the fact that so far unemployment has been hidden. But this year the government and the companies no longer have any money to finance three or four-month vacations and working short hours for the employees. People will be laid off. However, the people are not used to unemployment. It is very easy to turn our unemployed into a lumpen proletariat with stones in their fists."

The new strata of the dispossessed, among whom Fedorov also counts the middle echelon of army officers, which have suffered more than all other social strata because of the demise of the Soviet Union, are a fertile soil for nationalist forces in Russia. These forces are now gathering, for instance, around Vladimir Shirinovskiy, 47, the chairman of the Liberal-Democratic Party, and are not afraid of anything.

Many people in the West and also in Russia do not take Shirinovskiy, the "political clown," seriously. Fedorov thinks differently. "I have known Shirinovskiy for years. He is a clown, not because he really is one, but because Russia now seems to need one. He is a political clown because he does not use traditional political means, one who is very sensitive to the psychology of the people and for whom millions will vote."

"The Referendum Is a Mistake"

The danger that the president and Parliament will fail as political forces in Russia and that a third national power with a red-brown color will gain superiority has increased strongly, in Fedorov's view, since Yeltsin and Khasbulatov came to a compromise in December saying that on 11 April the Russian people will be permitted to vote in a referendum on the basic lines of a future constitution of the Russian Federation.

Fedorov—like Vice President Rutskoy, parts of the Citizens Union and, obviously, now also President Yeltsin himself—thinks that the referendum in its planned form is a dangerous political mistake. The period for preparations until April is too short, the topic is too complicated: Since the people do not understand what they are supposed to vote on, many will not go to the referendum. Polls have shown that only 37 percent are interested in the referendum.

Fedorov: "Apathy has become very great. In addition, the people are afraid that what happened at the referendum on the existence of the Soviet Union in March 1991 will be repeated: The results are interpreted arbitrarily." It is not certain, either, whether the referendum will be held all over Russia: The republics of Northern Ossetia, Ingushetia, Chechenia, Tatarstan, Bashkortostan, Tuve, Yakutia, and perhaps also Komi, which are insisting on their independence, might boycott the referendum.

"However, if six or seven of the autonomous regions do not participate, this will mean the division of Russia." This will then be the last step toward a "Yugoslav scenario." "We do not want the referendum to play the role of a catalyst for that. We are for referendums, but with clear questions." In addition, it is very difficult to hold a referendum against the background of the escalating economic crisis. The permanent political crisis might reach a climax, because if the referendum failed, the president and the parliament head would have to resign and the parliament would have to be dissolved. A failure of the referendum would mean distrust of the people for the democratic system. This would be the end of democracy in Russia, Fedorov says.

Glazyev Outlines Measures To Increase Exports

LD0202203893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1802 GMT 2 Feb 93

[By BUSINESS-TASS correspondent Vadim Yegorov]

[Text] Moscow February 2 TASS—The structure of Russian exports continues to deteriorate, Russian Minister of Foreign Economic Relations Sergey Glazyev said on Tuesday [2 February].

Addressing an inter-regional conference on the development of machinery exports held in Moscow on Tuesday, Glazyev said the government plans to take a set of measures to normalise the situation. Those include the normalisation of raw material trade with former Soviet republics and foreign countries, more effective coordination of efforts by federal and regional bodies to develop export potential, and state support for investment projects to encourage exports.

Glazyev said the quality of Russian exports remains low as they are dominated mostly by raw materials, while the share of manufactured goods continues to decrease.

Since the liberalisation of foreign trade in Russia, centralised exports have accounted for 50 per cent of raw material exports and ten per cent of manufactured goods.

An outbreak of raw material exports from Russia has seriously affected world prices of raw materials and forced other exporters to reduce their prices. This and a fierce competition among importers and "confrontation between the centre and local administrations" have significantly undermined the effectiveness of Russian foreign trade and resulted in a loss of Russia's positions in some countries.

However, this does not apply to arms sales which remain under the state control, the minister said. Russia's profits from arms sales began growing after it decided to terminate arms supplies to insolvent countries which have been using "our ideological closeness," Glazyev said.

Speaking about the regulation of foreign trade, Glazyev said foreign trade tariffs, a law on which is expected to be adopted in February or March 1993, will become the main instruments of regulating Russia's foreign trade.

At the same time, Russia plans to reduce the list of export quotas, which by 1994 should include only some fuel and energy resources and mineral fertilizers.

To invigorate exports of manufactured goods, primarily machinery, the government plans to establish an export/import bank and a Russian bank for reconstruction and development which will finance foreign trade, accumulate funds for encouraging export-oriented industries and issue credit guarantees for financing concrete investment projects. In addition, foreign investors will be allowed to mortgage land, natural resources and other resources, but "this measure should be used very carefully, because there is a danger of losing control of economy," Glazyev said.

Urges Selling Hard Currency Profits

LD0202204293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1910 GMT 2 Feb 93

[By BUSINESS-TASS correspondent Vadim Yegorov]

[Text] Moscow February 2 TASS—In an effort to prevent leaks of hard currency earnings from Russia, the Russian Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations has called for obligatory selling of all hard currency profits of enterprises through currency exchanges.

The announcement was made by Minister of Foreign Economic Relations Sergey Glazyev at an inter-regional Conference on the Development of Machinery Exports held in Moscow on Tuesday.

"The regime of selling 50 per cent of hard currency earnings will be valid for some time, but the transition to 100 per cent selling remains a top-priority task," Glazyev said.

The existing mechanism of hard currency sales on the domestic market which are conducted mostly by commercial banks is very ineffective. Obligatory selling of 50 per cent of hard currency profits on a currency exchange will help "prevent leaks of capitals, ensure strict control over their movement and rule out delays in payments," the minister said.

In addition, the ministry suggests creating a unified automatic system of hard currency control which will monitor foreign economic operations from the beginning to the end.

Russia's losses from such leaks over the last two years have been estimated at about ten per cent of its exports, which is about two to five billion U.S. dollars. About 70-80 per cent of hard currency funds which "settle down" on foreign bank accounts return to Russia in de-centralised imports, Glazyev said.

Shumeyko Views Plan To Increase Economic Reforms

OW0202165593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1643 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Late Monday evening [1 February] a government commission led by Russian First Vice Premier Vladimir Shumeyko completed their plan for the cabinet's activities for implementing economic reforms in 1993. The document was developed on the basis of three programs: Yegor Gaydar's plan for intensifying economic reforms, Boris Fedorov's financial and economic policy plan, and the economy minister's plan for stabilizing the economy.

Andrey Illarionov, first deputy director of the government's economic reforms center, told an Interfax correspondent that the plan includes measures for financial and economic stabilization, steps in social, industrial, and regional policy, and plans for economic collaboration with former USSR republics. However, he said the document is not "radically reformist and contains only those measures needed to avoid economic catastrophe."

Illarionov stressed that in the plan they managed to avoid "lobbyist, pro-inflation and anti-reform proposals, of which there were many."

The deputy head of the economic reforms center said that the economy minister's proposals for granting price, preferential, and conversion credits to defense industry enterprises, as well as investments to support industry, were not included in the plan. The document does not reflect the Economy Ministry's proposals on forming extra-budgetary funds in branches of the ministries and departments and the introduction of differentiated standards for keeping commercial bank funds in reserve.

The plan of the cabinet's activities will be given preliminary consideration at the Presidium of the Council of Ministers on Thursday; it will then be presented to the government at its February 11 session.

Oblast Soviet Chairmen Call For Amendments to Budget

PM0202160793 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Feb 93 First Edition p 3

[Unattributed report under the "Budget-93" rubric: "Regions Threaten Disobedience"]

[Text] The chairmen of Vladimir, Ivanovo, Kostroma, Moscow, Nizhniy Novgorod, Tomsk, and Ryazan Oblast Soviets and Krasnoyarsk Kray Soviet—V. Kalyagin, V. Tikhomirov, R. Kartashov, A. Polyakov, Ye. Krestyaninov, G. Shamin, V. Prikhodko, and V. Novikov—have discussed the Russian Federation president's budget message and issued a statement.

The chairmen notably think that, notwithstanding the claim by the authors of the message about the "maximum expansion of the rights of members of the federation and local organs of power in conducting financial and budget policy while retaining the unified principles underlying policy which stem from the Federation Treaty," the document is based on the former approach: "Pay your money into the federal budget and you may perhaps get some of it back."

The ratio set in the budget message for expenditure between the federal budget and the budgets of federation members (67.2 and 32.8 percent) does not take into account the oblasts' minimum needs and does not correspond to the decisions of the Seventh Congress of People's Deputies on shifting the center of gravity of reforms to local level.

The president's budget message, according to the authors of the statement, again sanctions the violation of Russian Federation legislation on budget, financial, and tax questions: Notably, contrary to Paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article 19 of the Russian Federation Law "On the Bases of the Taxation System in the Russian Federation," whereby the profits tax is to be paid entirely into the budgets of federation members while value-added tax and excise duties are to be paid into the federal budget, in the 1993 draft budget system they are all apportioned between the federal budget and the budgets of the krays and oblasts. A situation where territories' own income is no more than 6 percent of the Russian Federation consolidated budget inevitably leads to federation members' complete dependence on the central authorities and is completely at odds with the requirements of the Federation Treaty. The retention of the former procedure for agreeing the budgets of krays and oblasts in the Ministry of Finance, where federation members' proposals on the expenditure and revenue of their budgets, backed up by calculations, are rejected without any grounds whatsoever, also contradicts it.

All this gives the soviet chairmen grounds for insisting that the formation of federation members' budgets be conducted in 1993 on the basis of the following principles: The determination of expenditure in the sociocultural sphere on the basis of a uniform budget provision normative per inhabitant of the Russian Federation legislatively enshrined by Russian Federation Supreme Soviet decrees; a uniform methodology for calculating the tax base [nalogooblagayemaya baza] as the means for determining the revenue section of budgets at all levels confirmed by decree of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet; the enshrinement by Russian Federation Supreme Soviet decree of a uniform budget expenditure forecasting coefficient for the whole financial year; the mandatory retention of at least 50 percent of all budget receipts in federation members' consolidated budgets.

Second, the soviet chairmen insist on changes to the tax system during 1993. They should envisage: Granting federation members the right to determine independently the rates of payment for land and the concessions to taxpayers on this kind of taxation; assigning all the profits tax to federation members; granting federation members the right to set independently the profits tax and property tax rates for corporate bodies and also concessions for individual categories of taxpayers based on local conditions; granting to federation members the right to expand independently the list of local taxes and imposts; and payment of at least 90 percent of revenue derived from the privatization of all enterprises located on federation members' territory into their budgets with the aim of investing in the national economy of the regions in question.

Third, the authors demand that the appointment and dismissal of the leaders of the tax inspectorates of federation members and cities and rayons be carried out with the agreement of the relevant organs of representative and executive power in order to enhance the effectiveness of actions by local organs of the tax inspectorate.

Khlystun Discusses Agricultural Prospects, Problems

LD0202192493

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1040 GMT on 2 February carries a 20-minute interview with Russian Agriculture Minister Viktor Nikolayevich Khlystun by reporter Lyudmila Kanyrina.

Asked about the overall results in agriculture over the past year, Khlystun says: "I would divide the results of the year into two parts. We have two major branches, crop cultivation and animal husbandry and, unfortunately the situation in these branches is different. We can talk about a successful 1992 in the cultivation branch and, on the contrary, about a critical situation in animal husbandry today."

The weather and economic conditions were difficult in the past year, particularly with regard to the disparity in prices between agricultural and industrial products, Khlystun continues. "However, for virtually all types of agricultural crops we obtained more produce than in the previous year, and grain output was the second highest in the past 10 years. We obtained 117 million tonnes of grain in hopper weight, which is 107 million tonnes in granary weight. We obtained more sunflower, sugar beet, and potatoes, on all categories of farms; vegetable output was perhaps very slightly down, but was virtually at last year's level. And if one considers that this year town dwellers put a lot of effort into providing themselves with vegetable products and potatoes, then the situation today is that there is virtually no region which is suffering a shortage of these types of foodstuffs."

Khlystun goes on to say: "Although we obtained a lot of grain it was still not enough to fulfill all Russia's requirements because, unfortunately, we expend too much on animal feed. No country in the world can allow itself such a luxury. Until we change the structure of production, until we produce considerably more protein feed,—soya, chick peas, lupins, etc—we will be unable to resolve our grain problem." Until then it will be necessary to buy in grain from abroad. "Whether we like it or not, we need 125 million tonnes of various types of grain, including soya."

Kanyrina suggests that the construction of vast grain reception facilities at Novorossiysk indicates that imports are a long-term policy. Khlystun says that these facilities could later be used for exports, but he also questions the need for such large facilities there. Kanyrina asks if there is such a thing as a grain mafia. Khlystun says he has no evidence of it.

Turning to animal husbandry, Khlystun says: "The situation in animal husbandry is quite different. Beginning in 1987 at first slowly and then, from 1989 more rapidly there has been a decrease in the number of cattle." This has not been accompanied by any rise in productivity. The reasons for this are first, the shortage of fodder, and second, the low prices for animal products: It is more profitable to sell grain than feed it to animals. "During the year we first gave small subsidies, and then a slight increase. To a certain extent, this saved the situation but did not halt these processes. It was only at the end of December that some hope appeared. in December and in January, for the first time for 1991 and 1992, at first just a few territories but now a quarter of the territories—21 of them—have a daily milk yield per cow higher than a year ago. in December the decline in number of cattle halted in 46 territories, that is, over half of all territories." Thus the tide may be turning, Khlystun says.

Replying to a question about subsidies, Khlystun says he does not like them in principle. "I am still forced to defend subsidies and to fight to have them paid because, even on the best farms and even with the latest technology, the expenditure is higher than the income for animal husbandry." The mechanism for subsidies must be changed to encourage efficiency and entrepreneurism.

Asked about his predictions for the coming year, Khlystun says: "The year will be very difficult again. The main problem in crop cultivation was that autumn was extremely unfavorable for the autumn sowing. We sowed less winter crops and plowed less fallow, so there will be a great increase in the volume of spring field work. We should now concentrate our main attention on building up stocks of fuels and lubricants and preparing equipment. We will have no particular problems with seeds. There are problems with spare parts and fuel and lubricants. We are trying to resolve these and I think that we will be able to carry out the spring field work normally.

On the basis of the trends that have emerged and the support which is now being determined, I have great hopes that on the whole we will be able to correct the situation in animal husbandry."

Khlystun goes on to say that reforms will continue. "I expect that 1993 will at the very least be no worse than 1992," he concludes.

Russian 1992 Economic Performance Reported

PM0202201593 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 3 Feb 93 First Edition p 5

[Russian State Committee for Statistics report: "Russia's Economy in 1992"]

[Text] **Gross Domestic Product**

In 1992 the volume of Russia's gross domestic product [GDP] totaled 15 trillion rubles [R]. The predominant part of the GDP was created in the sectors of physical production, which account for 86 percent of the GDP.

The share of the net physical product (produced national income) in the GDP stood at 81.5 percent (growth of 3.5 points over 1991), while the proportion of depreciation stood at 5.5 percent (a drop of two points), and that of services at 13 percent (a drop of 1.5 points).

The increase in the value of the GDP was accompanied by a reduction in its physical volume (by 19 percent as a whole). The deflator (consolidated price index) for the GDP is estimated at 1,650-1,750 percent. The drop in produced national income stands at 20 percent, with its reduction amounting to 14 percent in the first quarter, 18 percent in the first six months, and 20 percent during the first nine months of 1992.

Industrial Production

In 1992, compared with the previous year, production of industrial output in physical terms fell 18.8 percent. In the fourth quarter of 1992, compared with the preceding quarter, the average daily production of a number of the most important types of output of the fuel industry, ferrous metallurgy, light industry, the food industry, and complex domestic technical goods increased. In a number of sectors this increase is of a seasonal nature and is connected with the heating period and with mass processing of agricultural output.

In the fourth quarter production of industrial output stayed practically at the level of the third quarter, when the largest fall in production occurred. On the whole, it looks like this:

	Percentage of corresponding period of 1991	Percentage of preceding quarter
First quarter	87.0	97.6
Second quarter	86.0	95.9
Third quarter	75.8	80.3
Fourth quarter	77.1	99.7
1992	81.2	—

The slump in industrial production last year was not structural but was of a general nature. The reduction in output in a number of sectors is connected to a certain degree with the fall in investment activity.

An analysis of the course of production of the most important types of industrial output shows that in the fuel and energy complex the enterprises of the "Gazprom" concern worked most stably throughout the year. Gas extraction was maintained at practically the 1991 level (the reduction amounted to just 0.4 percent). Coal extraction also did not drop so significantly—by 5 percent. The drop in oil extraction stood at the level of 14 percent. At the same time this magnitude was stably maintained during practically all the months. Electricity generation fell 5 percent compared with 1991.

In other sectors of industry the depth of the slump was more significant. **In ferrous metallurgy**, for example, steel smelting fell 13 percent, production of finished rolled metals 15 percent, and steel pipes 23 percent.

In machine building the biggest slump was in sectors such as agricultural machine building, where production of tractors fell 23 percent, that of grain-harvesting combines 24 percent, and tractor trailers and flax-harvesting combines more than 50 percent. In road construction machine building production of road graders fell 17 percent and that of excavators 26 percent, while production of scrapers stood at just 14 percent of the 1991 volumes; in hoisting and transport machine building production of overhead electric cranes fell by one-third, and that of tower cranes by one-half.

One-fourth fewer metal-cutting machine tools were produced in 1992 than in 1991, and just 65 percent of the forging and pressing machines. At the same time production of machine tools equipped with a digital program control device fell by more than one-half, and that of high-precision and super-high-precision machine tools by one-third. Experiencing difficulties selling their output, particularly highly productive complex machines, many machine tool-building enterprises have been forced to reduce production and to reorient it toward producing simple, general-purpose machine tools and machines.

The economy's restructuring is being held up by the slow development of **chemical production facilities** which ensure technical progress and a saving of raw material resources, primarily highly efficient plastics and articles made from them—polystyrene, polypropylene, polyvinyl chloride and plastic compounds based on it, and pipes and pipeline components made of thermoplastics, whose production amounted to 72-89 percent of the 1991 level, as well as fiber glass plastics—two-thirds.

Production of chemical fibers and yarns—the basic raw material for the textile industry—fell 14 percent during the year, and that of synthetic dyes fell by one-third.

In 1992 enterprises of the timber and woodworking industry failed to stabilize their work and surmount the slump in production of all basic types of output. The sector's development is being held up by the logging industry, whose enterprises, starting in 1989, have been systematically reducing the volumes of timber removed. Interruptions in the supply of timber have led to a reduction by 20-28 percent in the production of lumber, pit props, and mine lagging, and a 37-percent reduction in plant-made wooden houses. The problem of supplying railroad transport with wooden cross ties and squared beams for broad-gauge railroad switches has been exacerbated.

Last year **light industry** worked under considerable strain; many production facilities lay idle, primarily because of a lack of raw materials, including imported ones. Over the year as a whole production of textiles, hosiery, and knitwear fell 15-33 percent.

In the food industry production of 90 percent of basic foodstuffs in 1992 was lower than 1991, with production falling by one-fourth for one in every two of them and by half for whole-milk products.

The Agro-Industrial Complex

The reforms being implemented in the countryside have so far been unable to rectify the grave situation in the agrarian sector of the economy. In 1992 the value of gross agricultural output (in comparable prices) fell 8 percent compared with 1991. The reduction in production volumes occurred at the expense of public farms.

The gross grain harvest amounted to a finished weight of 106.8 million tonnes and exceeded last year's by almost 18 million tonnes (20 percent). The yield of grain crops was 17.2 quintals—19 percent more than in 1991.

Production of wheat totaled 46.0 million tonnes, and that of rye totaled 13.9 million tonnes, exceeding the 1991 level by 18 and 31 percent respectively. The gross harvest of buckwheat increased significantly—it increased 50 percent and totaled 1.0 million tonnes. Some 1.5 million tonnes of millet was obtained—almost half as much again as the previous year. Rice production fell, with 755,000 tonnes being threshed (773,000 tonnes in 1991).

The gross harvest of sugar beets totaled 25.5 million tonnes, and that of sunflower seeds 3.1 million tonnes—5-6 percent more than last year.

Precisely 37.8 million tonnes of potatoes were lifted on farms of all categories, or 10 percent more than the previous year; 9.9 million tonnes of vegetables were harvested (5 percent less).

There was, however, a substantial fall in production of stockraising products—which led to a sharp deterioration in their supply to the population. Farms of all categories sold for slaughter 12.7 million tonnes of livestock and poultry (live weight) and obtained 47 million tonnes of milk, 42.6 billion eggs, and 179,000 tonnes of wool (physical weight). Compared with 1991, production of these products fell 10-12 percent. The reduction on public farms, according to estimates, was more than three-fourths caused by the reduction in numbers of livestock and one-fourth by a drop in its productivity.

The average milk yield per cow in agricultural enterprises stood at 2,246 kg in 1992—333 kg (13 percent) less than in 1991. The daily weight increases as a result of fattening stood at 371 grams for cattle and 288 grams for hogs, or 12-14 percent less than a year ago.

The numbers of cattle on collective and state farms fell by 3.4 million head (8 percent) in 1992, those of cows by 1.0 million head (7 percent), hogs by 3.5 million head (15 percent), sheep and goats by 4.9 million head (13 percent), and poultry by 72 million head (16 percent).

Capital Construction

The volumes of capital investments and construction and installation work in the Russian Federation in 1992 fell by almost one-half compared with 1991. Capital investments to a value of more than R2 trillion at present-day prices were assimilated from all sources of funding. The biggest slump in investments occurred in sectors which determine the dynamics and areas of structural policy—in electricity generation and machine building—which is extremely unfavorable for the short-term development of the economy.

The share of the state sector in the overall volume of capital investments remained predominant (85-87 percent). The proportion of centralized funds in state capital investments stood at 38 percent (35 percent in 1991).

There was no reduction during the year on the front of construction and concentration of financial, material, and labor resources on the construction of the most important, priority projects. Some 354,500 production projects were at the construction stage—10 percent more than in 1991. Some 30,000 enterprises and projects were mothballed and, at the same time, construction of 34,200 was restarted.

Investments in the nonproduction sphere fell 45-50 percent compared with 1991. The apartment blocks commissioned covered a total area of 37.9 million square meters—23 percent less. The general educational schools and preschool establishments commissioned fell by 26 percent.

On the whole, uncompleted construction increased during the year and totaled, according to estimates, R3.7 trillion at present-day prices—which is exacerbating the inflationary processes in the economy.

Price Liberalization

A distinguishing feature of 1992 is the fact that it passed by under the sign of rapid growth in prices in all sectors of the national economy.

In 1992 the wholesale prices of technical industrial products increased by a factor of 34, the purchase prices of agricultural products by a factor of 10, and the consumer prices of consumer goods and services by a factor of 26 (December 1992 compared with December 1991).

The determining factors in the growth of prices were the growing emission of credit and money, which took the form of an increasing volume of cash infusions into the national economy.

The population's monetary income in 1992 totaled R6.3 trillion—an increase of 650 percent over 1991 (the population's income in December 1992 exceeded the December 1991 income by 960 percent).

The average wage of workers and employees in the Russian Federation's national economy in December 1992 was equal to R16,000 and had increased by a factor of 12 compared with the corresponding period of last year. But the growth in consumer prices had not been matched by an adequate increase in the population's income—which led to a substantial drop in the living standard of a considerable section of the population. Over the year as a whole the growth rate for prices was more than double the growth rate for wages.

The lowering of the population's material living standard has caused the structure of its consumer spending to alter. That part of the monetary funds spent by the population on food has increased significantly. Thus, in families of workers and employees expenditure on acquiring foodstuffs amounted in November 1992 to 44.5 percent of total consumer spending—10.8 points more than at the end of 1991. In November 1992 the proportion of pensioners' expenditure on food stood at 81 percent of their total income and had increased 15 points compared with 1991.

The constant growth in the prices of the most important foodstuffs and industrial goods and the increase in the tariffs for services have led to a reduction in their consumption by the population of Russia.

The Consumer Market

Retail commodity turnover last year was R3.6 trillion (an increase of 650 percent over 1991) of which R1.6 trillion went on foodstuffs. Enterprises in state ownership accounted for 69 percent of the commodity turnover (74 percent in 1991), consumers' cooperatives accounted for 19 percent (22 percent), and those in private ownership accounted for 8 percent (1 percent). The population bought 39 percent fewer goods in physical terms from trade and public catering enetrprises than they did in 1991.

Nonorganized trade turnover increased substantially last year. It represented 13 percent of retail trade turnover. According to the figures goods worth more than R450 billion were sold to the population in free trade. At the same time the supply of goods to the Russian consumer market from traditional, large-scale sources of supply fell in 1992: Home production fell 15 percent compared with 1991), production from the countries of the nearby foreign parts fell threefold, and imports were down by half.

The shortage of marketable resources in the food market had a perceptible impact. Demand for the basic foodstuffs remains stable even despite their constant rise in price and is supported by structural changes in the population's incomes. In 1992 the proportion of foodstuffs in retail trade turnover was 45 percent as against 36 percent in 1985. The food ration established in recent years necessarily changed. Per capita consumption of meat and meat products, sugar, and confectionery products fell by 13 percent compared with 1991 and consumption of milk and dairy products, fish and fish products, and fruit fell by 18-20 percent. At the same time the consumption of foodstuffs of lower nutritional value—potatoes and bread products—rose.

The enforced redistribution of the population's money incomes in favor of purchases of foodstuffs artificially restricted demand in the nonfood goods market last year. For a considerable section of the Russian population the main aim in their purchases was not the expansion of their wardrobe but the replacement of worn-out items. In comparison with 1991 sales of knitwear, sewn goods and hosiery, and cotton fabircs, fell by 52-56 percent and sales of leather footwear, woollens and silks fell by 24-33 percent.

The volume of sales of paid services last year amounted to R340 billion, which in physical terms is 36 percent less than in 1991. The physical volume of consumer services fell by 55 percent.

Foreign Trade

Last year Russia's foreign trade with foreign countries other than those in nearby foreign parts amounted to $73.1 billion, 23 percent down on 1991.

Russia had a favorable foreign trade balance of $3.1 billion in 1992 ($6.4 billion in 1991).

Russian exports totaled $38.1 billion, 25 percent down on 1991. Oil exports amounted to 66 million tonnes, an increase of 17 percent; gas exports were 89 billion cubic meters, a decrease of 0.8 percent. Exports of ferrous metals and nitrogen fertilizers remained at the 1991 level; supplies of iron ore and concentrates, cement, coke and semicoke, pig iron, iron alloys, ammonia, phosphorus and potassium fertilizers, newsprint, cotton fabrics, domestic refrigerators, and television sets were down by one-third and more.

Energy sources accounted for more than 50 percent of the total volume of exports and machinery and equipment accounted for nine percent.

Russian imports amounted to $35 billion in 1992, 21 percent down on the previous year. Some 362,000 tonnes of fresh-frozen meat were imported, 30 percent less than in 1991, together with 48,000 tonnes of poultry (45 percent less), 35,000 tonnes of coffee (23 percent less), 47,000 tonnes of tea (three times less), plant protection agents worth $355 million (45 percent less), 27 million meters of cotton fabrics (2.3 times less), knitted garments worth $561 million (29 percent less), textile garments worth $758 million (17 percent less), 40 million pairs of leather footwear (23 percent less), and 380,000 tonnes of pipes (3.8 times less).

Grain imports amounted to 29.5 million tonnes, which is 37 percent more than in 1991; medicines worth $1,044,000,000 were imported, which is six percent more.

Imports of machinery and equipment were worth $13.5 billion, which was nine percent down. Machinery and equipment accounted for 39 percent of total imports.

Demographic Situation

Last year was the worst since the war in terms of Russian demographic development. For the first time in a long time the Federation's population fell (according to preliminary data) by more than 70,000, or by 0.1 percent, and was 148.6 million by the beginning of 1993. Adverse phenomena continued to increase in terms of the birth and death rates, as a result of which the population's natural reproduction turned from a crisis situation into a critical one.

Last year the number of births fell by 199,400, or by 11 percent, while the number of deaths increased by 88,900, or five percent. In 1992 there were nearly 185,000 more deaths than births, or 12 percent more. The losses were so great that they were not even made up by the increase in the influx of migrants compared with the previous year—mainly refugees from the countries of nearby foreign parts. The forecasts show that in 1993 the demographic situation in the country will continue to be governed by adverse changes in the natural movement of the population, and in many Russian territories the reduction in population numbers will take the form of steady depopulation.

Military Issues

Moscow To Discharge 40,000-50,000 Officers Annually

OW0202193793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1430 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian Defense Ministry's press service said on Tuesday [2 February] that the program for the gradual reduction of the Russian armed forces' numerical strength provides for an annual discharge of between 40,000 and 50,000 officers.

Many of those who have to go will need retraining to take civilian jobs. Relevant measures are being taken, the press service said.

Thus, in 1992, civilian higher educational establishments, and commercial and other structures retrained some 2,500 former servicemen, mainly for business jobs. Over the same period, the Defense Ministry provided retraining for 5,850 people, and the Federal Employment Service helped find work for 15,000 ex-servicemen.

An interdepartmental commission working on the provision of social security for servicemen and their families has approved the Defense Ministry's proposals for the creation of an extensive network of centers providing retraining for armed forces personnel. A special subdivision has been set up in the Defense Ministry's Department for Personnel Training and Distribution to handle the task.

Three such centers have already been set up, and another ten are in the making in Moscow, St. Petersburg, Novosibirsk, Rostov-on-Don, Yekaterinburg, Khabarovsk, and Taganrog.

In its retraining programs, Russia will be assisted by Germany, from whose territory Russia is withdrawing its forces. Thus, the German government has allocated approximately 130 million Deutschemarks for the purpose, including 23 million for organizing retraining on German territory.

Since April 1992, 98 training centers have been set up in the 32 garrisons of the Western Armed Forces Group, some 5,000 people having been trained as managers, accountants, and computer operators. A total of 11,500 people are to be retrained in Germany by the time all Russian forces leave the country in 1994.

Difficulties Over 'Military Laws' Viewed

PM0202145593 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 2 Feb 93 p 1

[Report by Vladimir Yermolin: "More Than Enough Conciliation Commissions but Little Agreement; Package of 'Military Laws' So Far Not Formed"]

[Text] Last Friday, when, because there was no representative of the Russian Federation president in the auditorium, the law "on military service obligation and military service" was removed from discussion, Aleksey Tsarev, chairman of a subcommittee of the parliamentary committee on questions of defense and security, told me that he is forming the impression that no one, including the Supreme Soviet, needs this law. When they were about to return to the law at the end of the working day it emerged that there was no quorum in the Soviet of

Nationalities. It was immediately decided to put off the examination of the "difficult" law, creating yet another conciliation commission.

We regularly try to inform our readers about the difficult fate of another "military" law. As one veteran noted, "the adoption of the law on pensions for servicemen is proceeding very slowly." It would not matter that it is proceeding slowly (although one can understand the impatience of the elderly)—a law is adopted for decades to come and it is indeed best to have yet another think and to weigh up everything. It is something else that is sad—the legislators' debate on this draft law is increasingly acquiring a strictly political nature. The already thoroughly beslobbered "army card" is being played. Mikhail Zakharov, chairman of the parliamentary commission for social policy, is perhaps more popular in army circles now than any other parliamentarian. It is he who is the main opponent of the law, it is he who has recently been delivering diatribes mainly against the "greedy generals." With Mikhail Lvovich's connivance a question has been flung at the mass media: "Why should a miner live worse than a general?" Why should a commonplace speculator live better than either the miner or the general—the commission for social policy is so far evidently not concerned with that question.

I want least of all to pour oil on the already heated relations between some parliamentary committees and commissions but it should be recalled that any rash word in our nervous times is fraught with the danger of social conflict. Who stands to gain from raising another anti-army wave? Look, they say, oh righteous people, who is living well in Russia today? The army, which neither sows nor reaps and does not mine coal.

Yet the question was decided on an entirely legal plane. The concept of the law on military pensions should answer the clearly posed question: Do we need a professional army? An army in which any young man of superior intellect would consider it an honor to serve. Some people may not like today's generals or the senior and junior officers, that is how a person's individual experience sometimes takes shape, but the laws which are now being born in agony in the depths of the Russian parliament will determine the face of the Russian armed forces for the future. Let the armed forces contain as many officers and generals as Russia considers it unburdensome to maintain, but let their heads be concerned not with how to feed their families and with what but entirely with military service. Will the present draft law on military pensions resolve this supreme task? In concept it is aimed at doing so, but if it continues to be plucked apart while people keep repeating to the whole country how impudent these military men are and how they want to live a life of ease at the people's expense, then there will be no point in speaking of any future for a reformed and updated army—it will be hard enough to ensure a subsistence minimum for today's retired servicemen.

In the meantime one thing concerns us: to avoid exploding the relative stability in society by an absurd and unnecessary confrontation between the army and the people. It is not the fault of the submarine officer whose family is "enjoying life" in an arctic garrison while he himself spends weeks and months without leaving his "solid hull" that somewhere in a mine a miner is cursing his life while his family can barely make ends meet.

I remember that once the miners' wages had been increased by a tiny amount and there was immediately a "popular" murmur—the country is in crisis but those miners... Later the same charges were leveled against the air traffic controllers when they threatened to strike. Today it is the army's turn. After all, when you meet with your voters who rightly ask you why we are living like this and what good you have done us, you our dear elected representative, it is so simple to point to a "specific" culprit who "does not sow and does not reap."

Supreme Soviet

Khasbulatov Makes 'Sensational Remarks' on Coup Fears

LD0102221293 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Station commentary by unidentified announcer]

[Text] So far the future of Russia looks rather alarming. Ruslan Khasbulatov has stated at a meeting at Volgograd University that he fears a coup attempt. According to the Russian speaker, the present behavior of executive power urges him to make a rather pessimistic forecast for the next few months. Ruslan Khasbulatov said that people who cannot rise above intrigues now happen to be at the steering wheel of political power. He also claimed that many decisions in Russia are being made under the influence of a very limited left-radical group of people.

It looks as if this statement by Ruslan Khasbulatov is the continuation of the propaganda campaign pursued by the chairman of the Supreme Soviet over the last few weeks. I would like to recall that at a recent meeting with young politicians, he spoke out against holding the April referendum and against adopting a new constitution. Then in Podolsk, Ruslan Khasbulatov proposed conducting simultaneous re-elections to the parliament and of the president in 1994. Incidentally, he reported that he does not intend to nominate himself and called big politics a dirty business. And now there are Ruslan Khasbulatov's sensational remarks in Volgograd.

The harsh nature of these remarks first of all testifies to the fact that the chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet is putting everything at stake. It looks as if truce and search for a compromise with executive power has been finished. Now the question is put like this: Who will win? Ruslan Khasbulatov made it quite clear that he does not plan to surrender and will fight against executive power with the latter's own methods. In this connection it is curious that a month ago one of the people close to Yeltsin—Mikhail Poltoranin—accused the chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet of preparing a plot against the president.

It seems that the words "plot" and "coup" are becoming everyday expressions in Russian politics. The confrontation between executive and legislative branches of power has reached the dangerous line beyond which lies a political abyss.

Khasbulatov: Early Elections 'Perfectly Logical'

PM0202141193 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Feb 93 First Edition p 1

[Russian Supreme Soviet Press center report: "Meeting: Who Is Really Clinging To Power?"]

[Text] On 30 January Ruslan Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet, addressed students and teachers of the Kachinsk Higher Military Aviation College. He devoted a considerable part of his speech to an analysis of the state of the legislative branch in the country. He stressed that the Supreme Soviet is really being persecuted today. In the public mind the impression is being created of a conservative institution which is opposing reforms. It should not be overlooked that, by this blanket criticism of the legislature, certain forces are undermining the whole power structure of the state.

Broaching the question of the possibility of early elections, Ruslan Khasbulatov stated that this step was sponsored by the Supreme Soviet, which shows who is really trying to cling to power. "There is nothing unusual in such elections," he noted. "In democratic countries early elections are a common event." He stressed that the present power structures were elected virtually simultaneously in conditions when Russia was still far from being an independent state. Therefore elections of both the representative and the legislative branches today are perfectly logical and should be simultaneous too.

Ruslan Khasbulatov noted that there is hardly anyone in Russia today who opposes reforms, but it is important to conduct them in a responsible way, without adventurism.

Khasbulatov Holds Talks With Volgograd Officials

LD0102225593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2158 GMT 1 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Vasiliy Titov]

[Text] Volgograd February 2 TASS—Russian Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy arrived in the hero-city of Volgograd on Monday [1 February].

The city has been marking the fiftieth anniversary of the victory in the Stalingrad battle these days. Aleksandr Rutskoy took part in the opening of the international telemarathon "children of World War Two for peace, harmony and mercy" devoted to this event. Addressing all those present, the vice-president expressed gratitude to those who gave their lives in the Stalingrad battle in the name of happiness and prosperity of Russia.

"I have always believed that Russia will be a powerful and prosperous state," Aleksandr Rutskoy said.

Ruslan Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet, who is visiting Volgograd, also took part in the opening of the telemarathon, visited the museum-panorama of the Stalingrad battle, met with chairmen of the city and district councils and heads of the city administration and the Volgograd region, as well as scientists of the Volgograd establishments of higher education.

In the course of his meetings with residents of Volgograd, Ruslan Khasbulatov stressed that today the parliament is a guarantor of democracy being formed in our country. In reply to questions, the parliamentary speaker noted that "we have been witnessing attacks on the representative power lately both on the part of some leaders of executive authority and some news media."

According to Ruslan Khasbulatov, they are creating an image of a conservative institute in public consciousness acting against current reforms." It is not taken into account that criticizing legislative power indiscriminately, certain forces are undermining the whole system of the state, the parliamentary speaker pointed out. Touching on the possibility of the pre-term elections, Ruslan Khasbulatov said that the "initiative of holding such elections has shown who is holding on to power."

"There is nothing unusual in such elections," the chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet said. "It is a rather widespread phenomenon in democratic countries," he noted.

On Tuesday Ruslan Khasbulatov will participate in festivities devoted to the fiftieth anniversary of the victory in the Stalingrad battle. On Tuesday night the parliamentary speaker plans to fly to Moscow.

Volgograd Cossacks Demonstrate

PM0302110593 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 3 Feb 93 p 1

[Report by I. Chernova: "In Moments of Silence—Will We Be Silent?"]

[Text] Volgograd—Those who could, prayed. Those who could not were silent, using the palms of their hands to shield the small candle flames from the draft... Yesterday in the hall of military glory of Mamayev Kurgan a service was held to commemorate the dead soldiers. A stooped little old lady who had managed, who knows how, to climb the 100-meter hill, tried to push her way through the crowd and people parted to let her through. The memory of the dead united people of different titles, ranks, age, and nationality.

...On the day he arrived in Volgograd Ruslan Imranovich Khasbulatov managed to meet with the heads of the rayon administrations and deputies. Volgograd State University was one object of his attention. Professor Zagorulko, rector of Volgograd State University, took advantage of the meeting to hint to Professor Khasbulatov that the educational establishment is in need of financial aid.

The Supreme Soviet chairman's security service had work to do. First, representatives of the Chechen diaspora tried to get to Khasbulatov's automobile "simply to talk to him." Then the guards had to calm down a crowd of local Cossacks. Khasbulatov also refused to meet with them.

On the morning of 2 February the Cossacks, not deviating from their planned program, demonstrated "who is the guest and who the host." After the service for the dead a column of several thousand men from the Terek, Kuban, and Don Regiments descended from Mamayev Kurgan and marched through the city center. The Cossack elders do not conceal the fact that this "continuation of the memory of the dead" had a dual purpose: "We want to be taken into account."

Similar wishes on the threshold of the holiday were voiced by representatives of many of Volgograd's political parties and public organizations.

...It was noisy—excessively noisy for a day of memory, grief, and forgiveness. In reconsidering and almost rewriting history our large-scale and small-scale politicians are quite unable to abandon the nomenklatura-like habits of recent years, when "together with" participation in some ceremonial event hosts and guests would not deny themselves the pleasure of "resolving" urgent questions.

But no two events are alike. Where there is grief there is no place for vanity. Never having learned the rules of political etiquette, thousands of "ordinary" people prefered silent prayer to garrulous demonstrations.

In minutes of silence—will we be silent?

Presidium Discusses Constitution's Draft Provisions

PM0202131393 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Feb 93 First Edition p 1

[Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Press Center report: "Supreme Soviet Presidium Session"]

[Text] A routine session of the Supreme Soviet Presidium was held at the Russian House of Soviets on 29 January under the chairmanship of Ruslan Khasbulatov.

After a report by Nikolay Ryabin, deputy chairman of the Constitutional Commission, the session continued the discussion of the draft "Basic Provisions of the New Constitution of the Russian Federation" which are to be submitted to the all-Russian referendum on 11 April 1993, a discussion which began at the previous presidium session.

After analyzing the 10 versions of the draft "Basic Provisions of the New Constitution of the Russian Federation" and the comments of the Supreme Soviet committees and commissions, the Constitutional Commission working group presented a generalized draft of 11 basic provisions.

Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov proposed that an additional question be included in the list of basic provisions: "Do you agree that there should be simultaneous elections of people's deputies of the Russian Federation and of the president of the Russian Federation in spring 1994?"

"Submitting such a question to the referendum will not only increase citizens' interest in participation in it but will also prompt deputies to take more resolute actions both to enshrine the new constitutional quality in the existing Basic Law and to correspondingly adopt the new constitution," Ruslan Khasbulatov noted.

"Without making loud declarations about it, the congress and the Supreme Soviet took a very soft option to achieve a new constitutional quality: From one congress to the next deputies introduced very important democratic amendments to the existing constitution. By the expiry of our deputies' mandates we would virtually have made the best democratic drafts of the Constitution equal to the existing Constitution. That would have been the softest and smoothest transition in the present unstable conditions without collisions or possible complications between the federal authorities and the members of the Federation," the Supreme Soviet chairman went on. "But since the radical approach has been foisted on us, we will accept these conditions. And we will submit the question of holding elections of the federal executive and legislative powers in spring 1994. Then it will be possible to say that the people have made their choice.

"After all, many political scientists are right when they assert that the present corps of federal deputies and the president were elected at a time when Russia was far from being an autonomous [samostoyatelnyy] power. But now, when the Russian Federation is the largest independent [nezavisimyy] state, the voters have completely different demands on their deputies and on the executive. That is why there is every reason to submit the question of elections in 1994 to the referendum.

"In the year ahead it is necessary to prepare the conditions for the elections. First of all it is necessary to adopt a major electoral law and a new law on political parties and resolve many other problems.

"By raising the question of elections the present corps of deputies are showing that they are not trying to hang on to power. And since the decline in the authority of both the legislative and the executive is being noted in the public consciousness, let us give the voters an opportunity to make their choice," Ruslan Khasbulatov concluded.

After a thorough discussion the Supreme Soviet Presidium sent the 12-question draft "Basic Provisions of the new Constitution of the Russian Federation," which are to be submitted to the all-Russian referendum on 11 April, to the standing commissions and committees of the Russian Supreme Soviet chambers.

The draft will also be sent to the president and the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation.

The following were presented in accordance with parliamentary procedure: A draft Supreme Soviet decree "On Measures To Ensure International Legal Obligations Connected with the Presence of Diplomatic and Other Foreign Missions in Moscow," and a draft "Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Appeal to the Parliaments of the Republics Formed on the Territory of the former SFRY and to the World Community."

By edict of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Presidium, a group of Great Patriotic War veterans and veterans of the Battle of Stalingrad were awarded the Certificate of Honor of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Presidium.

The session also examined other questions of the Russian Federation's state life.

A recess has been called in the sessions of the Sixth Supreme Soviet from 1 to 7 February to enable people's deputies to work in their electoral districts.

Supreme Soviet Discusses Bankruptcy Law, Referendum

LD0202221793 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] The Russian Supreme Soviet declared an unscheduled recess this week. Many deputies have left for their constituencies. As for Ruslan Khasbulatov, the head of the Supreme Soviet, he has been attending the ceremonies in Volgograd marking the 50th anniversary of victory in the Battle of Stalingrad. Yet there has certainly been no complete lull in political life at the White House in Moscow. Nikolay Artemyev, our parliamentary correspondent, reports on the events of the past day.

[Artemyev] First thing on Tuesday [2 February], the Committee for Questions of Economic Reform and Ownership arranged a hearing on progress in implementing the state privatization program. For us ordinary citizens, the essence of the program is embodied in vouchers, about which so much is now being said and written. At the hearing, the following information, which is not without interest, was made public:

As of today, 95 percent of people in Russia have received their vouchers, 1.5 percent have sold them, and about 5 percent more are prepared to do that. The remainder have a more serious attitude toward the vouchers. As Vasilyev, deputy chairman of the State Committee for the Management of State Property, said at the hearing, the main thing is that this will prompt the population to participate in voucher investment funds. There are some 300 of them now, and they must be given additional tax benefits.

Another notable event at the White House on Tuesday was the news conference given by the drafters of the law on bankruptcy. The law comes into force on 1 March. Economists regard the law on bankruptcy as one of the most market-oriented laws, since, ultimately, it is the law that will regulate the procedure for liquidating unviable enterprises. At the same time, concern was voiced at the news conference that, in practice, the law on bankruptcy will be unable to operate, since a number of accompanying enactments are missing—specifically, statutes on price indexation and the indexation of the value of the property of enterprises. Apart from that, as People's Deputy Aleksey Manannikov, one of the drafters of the law, thinks, the law on bankruptcy can only operate normally and positively when financial stability has been achieved. At the moment, alas, we have a long way to go to get there. Thus a wave of enterprise bankruptcies is not imminent, especially since mechanisms for supporting and improving enterprises that are necessary to the national economy are to be set in motion.

Last, but by no means the least in importance, is an event that occurred on Tuesday at the White House. A group of deputies, from among those who had not gone off to their constituencies, started a petition in favor of cancelling the referendum and convening an extraordinary congress no later than the end of February. They explain their viewpoint by saying that the referendum will only, as they put it, exacerbate the stand-off between the branches of power and the confrontation within society. The congress is needed to cancel the referendum. It is hard now to determine how strong the position of this still small group of deputies is. It may be supposed that this initiative may soon give rise to a new upsurge of feeling over the forthcoming referendum.

Supreme Soviet Meeting Mirrors Referendum 'Struggle'

PM0202145193 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Feb 93 First Edition p 2

["Weekly Review" by parliamentary observer Aleksandr Linkov: "Boomerang Effect. Fine, as Long as It Is a Toy One"]

[Text] The deputies' wish to see and hear Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin was satisfied last Thursday [28 January]. But you would scarcely call it an amicable meeting. No anticrisis program was prepared. The government head, reporting to parliament on the cabinet's work of analyzing mistakes that have been made, promised to present its results at the beginning of February.

But the economy is still ailing, with the January decline in production reaching 20-25 percent. So the primary elements are tighter financial and credit policy, stabilization and strengthening of the ruble as the national monetary unit, and the tackling of social programs.

In his speech Viktor Chernomyrdin said it over and over again: The only way to get out of the impasse the country finds itself in is to work together, forget about the disagreements, about who is on top at the moment, and bury political differences.

Last Friday the Supreme Soviet Presidium examined the main points of the new Russian Constitution, which are to be put to a referendum. They were prepared by a Constitutional Commission working group on the basis of drafts that had been submitted. But the proposed document differs significantly from those that have been examined in the past. Above all, it offers a completely new wording, bearing the number 12, which talks of holding simultaneous elections for people's deputies and for the Russian president in spring 1994.

This proposal prompted a varied reaction among political groupings. The radical democratic wing plainly disapproved of the idea. Judging by the initial assessments, what put its leaders off most was the prospect of simultaneous elections of the two top branches of power. Now if just one—the legislative branch—were being renewed, they would go along with that...

Why did the radicals, who have on more than one occasion sworn dedication to democratic principles, suddenly become wary of holding elections? Here is a curious detail: Since the start of the work of the Sixth Supreme Soviet Session the reform coalition in parliament has somehow adopted a low profile and its members have not been very active in the verbal battles. The move by certain leaders to presidential structures meant a change of tactics in the struggle, taking it out of the White House. The gamble was on an April referendum. They see it as a victory for themselves, and with it the death of the present representative power. "Democratic Choice," which brings together all the radicals in its ranks, has already prepared its own version of the questions to be posed in the plebiscite, and it intends to press the Russian president to put forward this wording himself. What if he refuses? Then the radicals might issue an ultimatum: If you do not support us, Mr. President, then we will leave you and join the opposition. They have talked about doing that more than once.

But, having been drawn into the campaign on the referendum, its initiators are stepping on the gas. To provide the ideological support for their own victory, mind you, a headquarters is being set up under Poltoranin's Federal Information Center. Let us refresh our memories: Let us remember the headquarters set up to stage a communist subbotnik, to conduct the sowing, harvest, or any other campaign, which would come into being in the higher reaches and fail utterly at the lower levels.

Why do all this now? S. Yushenkov, recently appointed deputy head of the Federal Information Center, explained: At the Supreme Soviet N. Ryabov's working group is preparing the referendum questions and, therefore, is responsible for ideology. The government headquarters, led by V. Shumeyko, is engaged in organizational matters. So the president is missing out. The Federal Information Center is therefore assuming the role of organizer of his victory.

The radicals' political opponents from the "Russian Unity" opposition bloc are not optimistic about the April referendum. After the government head's speech in parliament their forecasts are even more pessimistic, and the same course started by the Gaydar team is continuing. This is not the way to get Russia out of the crisis. Elections in spring 1994? As one opposition leader, V. Isakov, put it, if things move in that direction, the elections will be held—but this fall, not next spring. Life will make them happen. But first: Let us boycott the referendum!

Will Constitutional Court Chairman V. Zorkin's voice be heard in this political struggle that has begun—he said that the best thing at the moment for Russia as a state is to abandon the referendum altogether.

V. Zorkin's sober proposal is backed up by sociological research. According to observations over the past 18 months, there is a clear trend toward lower turnouts. For example, last year on average 30 percent of the voters participated in by-elections for people's deputies. The sociologists predict that a number of regions will not participate in the referendum owing to the political situation. And there was another grave warning: The necessary number of referendum participants can be ensured through energetic campaigning in districts where the Russian population predominates. But subsequently this could very well have adverse political consequences, down to the refusal of some members of the Federation to recognize the new Constitution.

...There is a toy called a boomerang. Throw it, and it returns to you. But once the boomerang was a weapon, capable of removing a hapless hunter's head. There is something akin to this simple device in the April referendum, which, though, is capable not only of hitting the initiators of the plebiscite hard, but of destroying the final hopes of stabilization. No program is going to help us then, for sure, as Prime Minister V. Chernomyrdin said in parliament.

The Supreme Soviet session takes a break as of 1 February. The deputies have returned to their electoral districts. But the winter parliamentary vacation is a short one this year. The parliamentary committees and commissions' activities are stepped up next Monday. The chambers—Soviet of the Republic and Soviet of Nationalities—will assemble 10 February for their routine plenary sessions.

Parliamentary Hearings Held on Privatization Program

LD0202150593 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 2 Feb 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Parliamentary hearings on a draft state program for 1993 privatization opened today. Dmitriy Vasilyev, deputy chairman of the State Committee for Management of State Property, reported on the results of privatization in 1992 and the plans for 1993. One in every five enterprises has been privatized in 1992. This figure in the trade and services sphere is even higher—about 35 percent. The rate of privatization was different depending on the region. For example, while 60-70 percent of enterprises were privatized in such places as St. Petersburg, Nizhniy Novgorod, and the Orel region, other regions have only just embarked on the process.

The small-scale privatization, which is proceeding quite successfully, should be completed in 1993 along with the active selling-off process. All 5,000 major enterprises in Russia should be privatized then. This will be carried out mainly through voucher auctions. Federal authorities intend to stimulate this form of privatization by introducing incentives not only for individual enterprises but for entire regions.

Last year's slogan was "small-scale privatization and flotation" and 1993 should become a year of voucher auctions and privatization of major enterprises.

Shakhray, Abdulatipov 'Speak Same Language' on Federation

PM0202160393 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 2 Feb 93 p 1

[Lyubov Volodina report: "Shakhray and Abdulatipov Work Together. This Can Only Help Matters"]

[Text] Ramazan Abdulatipov, chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet Soviet of Nationalities, and Sergey Shakhray, government vice premier and chairman of the Russian Federation State Committee for Nationalities Issues, stated at a joint press conference that the executive and representative branches of power have acted in concert for the first time to resolve interethnic problems in the Caucasus, and that this approach seems to be the most fruitful. The Shakhray-Abdulatipov pairing has recently undertaken a number of initiatives: A meeting of representatives of North Caucasus region parties and national movements was held in Pyatigorsk; a conference was convened in Kislovodsk and a Coordinating Council comprising the representative and executive leaders of the North Caucasus republics, Rostov Oblast, and Stavropol and Krasnodar Krays; and a second round of negotiations between Russian Federation and Chechen Republic delegations was completed, having prepared materials for the initial version of a treaty on delimiting the Russian Federation's and the Chechen Republic's powers. Finally, the neighbors' prestige has been enlisted to resolve the Ossetian-Ingush conflict.

It is Ramazan Abdulatipov's opinion that the deliberate actions to develop vitally important ties between the federation's subjects at the regional level will help to preserve the country's unity. Up to now the regional level of administration in the vertical power structure has, unfortunately, remained free and is causing cracks in the state instead of strengthening it. Sergey Shakhray considers that his department will have to take part, with the help of the Soviet of Nationalities, in a real battle for state subsidies to implement interethnic programs.

Apart from their firm intention to cooperate, Shakhray and Abdulatipov made an announcement about their common approach to ethnic policy. This entails "being guided by real life as opposed to theory" when drawing up treaties between the Russian Federation and the republics within it: not arguing about abstractions and not wasting time on fruitless discussions about political terminology, but coming to an agreement on specific questions. Our "status" emanates from the treaty and not the converse. There is one more principle concerning the distribution of subventions between the territories. Abdulatipov and Shakhray consider it sounder, more tactful, and more sensible to employ a policy of having federal programs instead of dividing up money from the center. It is also necessary to tie the regions in with the economic reform, for which a special structure will be created in the State Committee for Nationalities Issues with the help of the Soviet of Nationalities.

That there are coordinated actions in such a complex area as nationalities policy which are already producing results, leads you to the seditious thought that a confrontation between the executive and the legislature is not a mandatory or principled way for them to act toward each other at this stage. If such different politicians as Shakhray and Abdulatipov are able to speak the same language and cooperate, this first and foremost testifies to both statesmen's high level of competence and to their sense of responsibility, as well as to their having sorted out their priorities. Fortunately, it is not self-affirmation but the interests of Russia's peoples which are the priority of the chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities and the chairman of the State Committee for Nationalities Issues.

Regional Affairs

'No Signs' of War Preparations in North Ossetia

LD0202142693 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1300 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] No signs are being observed in North Ossetia and Ingushetia of any buildup of weapons by the warring sides or preparations for all-out large-scale combat operations. This was said at a Moscow news conference today by Major General Anatoliy Kulikov, commander of Russia's Ministry of Internal Affairs troops.

However, he did note that one cannot rule out any deterioration of the situation should armed detachments—in particular, fighters from the Confederation of Peoples of the Caucasus—return to the northern Caucasus in April when the mountain passes open up.

Troops in North Ossetia 'Ready For Any Eventuality'

LD0202141893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1332 GMT 2 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow, 2 Feb (TASS)—"We guarantee that we will allow no major clashes in the Northern Caucasus," Major General Anatoliy Kulikov, commander of the Russian Federation Internal Affairs Ministry troops declared at a briefing for domestic and foreign journalists at the Internal Affairs Ministry today. Answering a question from the ITAR-TASS correspondent on the possible stepping up of combat actions in North Ossetia and Ingushetia as the spring approaches, the commander stressed that the grouping of forces and resources deployed in the region is ready for any eventuality.

Special operations carried out by the servicemen on the territory of the two republics have resulted in the confiscation of 339 firearms, more than 26,000 rounds of ammmunition, 146 grenades, 87 explosive devices and 25 pieces of equipment and artillery weapons, he stated. In the past few days two battle-worthy infantry fighting vehicles have been confiscated; it has been established that they came to Ingushetia from Chechenya.

Chechen Minister Criticizes Intent To Deploy Troops

OW0202131193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1234 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The leadership of Chechnya has learned "from reliable sources" of the intent of the Russian Armed Forces leadership "to redeploy tank units along a route which runs across the territory of the Chechen Republic." The statement was made in a telegram sent by Chechen Foreign Minister Shamseddin Yusef [name as received] to Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev.

"The movement of Russian forces into the sovereign Chechen Republic without the assent of its leadership," stated the communique, "will be seen as an armed incursion." A copy of the communique was also sent to Russian Defense Minister General Pavel Grachev.

Kulikov Accuses Dudayev of Encouraging 'Terrorism'

LD0202225193 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 2 Feb 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] At a news conference today Major General Kulikov, Russian deputy minister of internal affairs and commander of the Internal Troops, expressed his personal opinion of one particular Caucasian leader:

[Begin Kulikov recording] Dudayev came to power by the sword. In the fall of 1991 the Supreme Soviet was stormed— there were casualties, incidentally—and in 1992 there were 610 murders in Chechnya, more than in Rostov oblast, even though Rostov oblast has five times the population of the Chechen Republic. Here is an original document. [Video shows Kulikov holding document.] Not even Dudayev has one. It bears his signature. It is signed commander in chief, the Armed Forces of the Chechen Republic, General Dudayev.

On 11 January, on the territory of Makhachkala, on the territory of Dagestan, two murderers of Chechen nationality were brought to trial. At noon, eight bandits, eight terrorists, burst in and open fire. Here are the weapons used in this act of terrorism. [Video shows pistols.] What should we do? Say nothing? Say that it was done by unidentified terrorists? When it was Dudayev's guards? Here are the documents. [Kulikov holds up photocopy of documents.] This one, for instance. Dzhebrailov, Mavlat Idrisovich, head of the department of the president's guard. His authorization was signed by Dudayev in person. You can compare it with a photocopy of the original. I repeat. I have no right to demand that criminal proceedings are instigated against Dudayev but I do have the right to demand through you, with your assistance, through the mass media, an explanation from the president of the republic who signs such things.

What does it mean? Either he himself organized this act of terrorism or it was organized with his permission. [end recording]

Tatarstan's Milli Majlis To Work Within Constitution

OW0202193493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1430 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Milli Majlis (National Parliament) of the Tatar People "acts strictly within the framework of the Constitution of Tatarstan. It does not and cannot lay any claim to state power in the republic," Milli Majlis chairman Talgat Abdullin told Interfax.

A mere 26 out of the Milli Majlis's 70 members represent Tatarstan's population. For this reason, the National Parliament cannot hold state power, Abdullin thinks. However, he expressed the hope that the organization will win considerable support at the forthcoming parliamentary election.

According to Abdullin, the Milli Majlis is in opposition to the authorities "only on certain issues." He said many of its decisions were reflected in those of the Tatar parliament.

The Milli Majlis, Abdullin said, is not opposed to the idea of Tatarstan's "associated membership" in the Russian Federation, regarding it as a "new step towards complete sovereignty." Analysts in Tatarstan believe the liberal wing has got the upper hand in the Milli Majlis. The two particularly radical deputy chairmen, Zakir Zaidullin and Amir Makhmudov, have handed in their resignations. The organization's policy poses no threat to ethnic relations in the republic, the analysts think.

Six More Join Moscow Mayoral Contest

MK0202140793 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 2 Feb 93 p 2

[Report by Moscow City Soviet Press Service correspondent Rustam Guseynov: "Who Else Wants To Be Mayor"]

[Text] Following the latest session of the district electoral commission, six more names have joined the 13 registered candidates for the post of head of the city administration:

Viktor Anpilov, Moscow City Soviet deputy, chief editor of the newspaper MOLNIYA, and chairman of the "Working Russia" movement—nominated by a citizens' meeting;

Yuriy Vlasov, writer—by a meeting of the "Krasnyy Proletariat" Plant labor collective;

Sergey Ivchenkov, Russian Federation first deputy minister of social security—nominated by a citizens' meeting;

Eduard Kuzin, general director of the VNIIdorstroy [All-Union Scientific Research Institute of Road Building] Science and Production Association—by the Democratic Party of Russia;

Aleksandr Sterligov, chairman of the Russian National Assembly Duma Executive Committee—by a general meeting of the Russian National Assembly's Moscow organization;

Viktor Filatov, general—by the AZLK [Lenin Komsomol Truck Plant] labor collective.

International Affairs

Talks With Polish Minister of Defense Continue

LD0202200893 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Network in Ukrainian 1700 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] [Announcer] The official visit of Janusz Onyszkiewicz, minister of national defense of the Republic of Poland, to Ukraine, is continuing.

[First correspondent] Today the Polish minister was received by Ivan Plyushch, chairman of the Supreme Council of Ukraine. Ivan Plyushch set out the position of the Ukrainian parliament on the issue of military developments in Ukraine, emphasizing for his guest the firm desire of our state to acquire nonnuclear status outside any bloc. The sides discussed the principal directions and possible spheres of cooperation between the armed forces of Ukraine and Poland. Valentyn Lemish, chairman of the Commission of the Supreme Council of Ukraine for Issues of Defense and National Security; Kostyantyn Morozov, minister of defense of Ukraine; and other officials took part in the meeting.

During the conversation between Janusz Onyszkiewicz and Ukraine Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma, both sides agreed on in their evaluation of their mutual relations as strategic partners, and above all in the military sphere. It was emphasized that this area of Ukrainian-Polish relations, calculated for the distant future, should be dynamic and mutually advantageous. Some problems of specific military cooperation were raised during the meeting.

[Second correspondent] [Words indistinct] satisfaction with the dynamic development of (?Ukrainian-Polish) relations was expressed during the conversation, and issues of mutual interest were discussed, including the prospects for cooperation in the military-political sphere. (Jerzy Kozakiewicz), charge d'affaires ad interim of Poland in Ukraine; Hennadiy Udovenko, ambassador of Ukraine to Poland; and representatives of the military departments of the two countries, took part in the conversation.

[Third correspondent] A meeting also took place between Janusz Onyszkiewicz and Viktor Antonov, minister of machine-building, military-industrial complex, and conversion of Ukraine. Antonov acquainted the guest with the state program for developing and converting the military-industrial and machine-building complex of Ukraine up to 1996, and related the problems which our state is encountering on the complex path of conversion. Problems of interaction between the military-industrial complexes of the two neighboring states were raised during the conversation.

Plyushch: Nonnuclear Status 'Impossible'

OW0202202493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2002 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Head of Ukrainian parliament Ivan Plyushch declared that Ukraine supposes to acquire a neutral and non-nuclear status in the future but "at present it is impossible to bring this idea into life." On Tuesday [2 February] he voiced this point of view during his meeting with Polish Defense Minister Janusz Onyszkiewicz who is on official visit in Kiev. Plyushch also said that signing of the CIS Charter by Ukraine would mean entering not only economic but military alliance with the Commonwealth countries. This contradicts with the neutral status proclaimed by Ukraine, the head of the parliament is convinced. On his part Onyszkiewicz declared that Poland does not intend to join any military blocs. However, this does not rule out a possibility of its cooperation with European countries in the military field.

Poland To Sell Rifles

LD0302051193 Warsaw PAP in English 2339 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Kiev, Feb. 2—Polish Defence Minister Janusz Onyszkiewicz, continuing his visit to Ukraine, on Tuesday [2 February] was received by Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma.

During a meeting with Ukrainian Minister for the Defence Industry Viktor Antonov, Onyszkiewicz said that Poland is ready to sell rifles in exchange for Ukrainian combat equipment for helicopters.

Minister Antonov reacting favourably to the proposal proposed on his part to establish cooperation ties between the two countries' aircraft industries. The two ministers agreed that details of future agreements in this respect will be prepared by working groups. Ivan Plyushch, chairman of the Supreme Council of Ukraine, during a meeting with Onyszkiewicz confirmed once again that Ukraine wants to be a non-nuclear state in future and has no intention to join any alliances.

Minister Onyszkiewicz stressed that Poland's strategic goal is to become a NATO member, but this will not take place in the near future. "At present we want to develop military cooperation with a number of countries, but this does not bear the character of an alliance," stressed the Polish defence minister.

Dubinin Advocates Dual Citizenship Pact

LD0202120093 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Russia is willing to sign an agreement with Ukraine on dual citizenship. Yuriy Dubinin, head of the Russian state delegation at talks with Ukraine, said this to an RIA correspondent. Noting that the legal systems of both countries stipulate the possibility of dual citizenship, he called for this problem to be settled as soon as possible.

Russian, Ukrainian Vice Premiers Discuss Debts

MK0202071593 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 29 Jan 93 p 9

[Article by Marat Salimov: "Foreign Assets Evaluation Criteria Worked Out"]

[Text] On 28 January Russian Vice Premier Aleksandr Shokhin, in the course of his one-day visit to Kiev, held talks with Ihor Yukhnovskyy, first deputy chief of the Ukrainian cabinet of ministers. The purpose of the visit was to conduct talks on the issue of dividing the foreign assets of the former USSR, and also on the state of mutual settlements in 1992.

The problem of dividing the assets inherited by the CIS states from the USSR is today a stumbling block in Russian-Ukrainian economic relations. The initial expectations that this problem would be resolved during the 15 January meeting between the Russian and Ukrainian presidents in Moscow (see KOMMERSANT-DAILY of 16 January) proved futile.

At the same time, observers expected no concrete decisions to be made following the Russian vice premier's visit, resolving the formidable problem of dividing the Union's assets. These expectations were justified. The sides only agreed on the criteria for assessing the size of the former Soviet foreign assets, and also procedures for further work by experts.

The second question raised at the vice premiers' meeting was the regulation of settlements following the results of the 1992 economic and trade exchanges, and also prospects for developing financial relations in 1993. The main difference in the positions of the two states lies in establishing the sum of mutual debts, and drawing up a balance of payments. According to the Ukrainian side, Russia owes Ukraine a total of 700 billion rubles [R] for 1992, including R425 billion on state-to-state settlements and R275 billion on commercial transactions. Ukraine puts its debt to Russia at R100 billion.

The Ukrainian position on the mutual settlements issue does not meet with understanding from the Russian Government. This is due to the fact that, according to the Russian side, the sums claimed were not backed by corresponding deliveries of Ukrainian goods and therefore may not be included in the Russian debt. The sides therefore agreed on the need to continue the debt-clearing procedures and hold consultations between the Central Bank of Russia and the National Bank of Ukraine on coordinating interstate debt problems.

Black Sea Fleet Problems Cause 'Instability'

OW0302125793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1103 GMT 03 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A Ukrainian naval command officer in charge of servicemen's social security, Vadim Slavyanov, told Ukrainian television political instability in Sevastopol has been caused by the fact that most of the documents Ukraine and Russia have to sign under the Yalta agreements between Presidents Boris Yeltsin and Leonid Kravchuk are still unsigned.

Slavyanov said documents on the status of the Black Sea Fleet during the transitional period are still not ready, nor has the joint command problem been solved. This, he said, causes problems in the maintenance of existing vessels and the construction of new ones.

He said that, in spite of an agreement under which the Black Sea Fleet is to be financed jointly by Ukraine and Russia, funds have so far been coming from Ukraine alone. Last year, for instance, Kiev spent 10 billion karbovantsi for the purpose. "If Russia had been taking part in financing the fleet, five billion karbovantsi could have been spent on building accommodation for naval personnel," Slavyanov said.

Kiev Allocates $1.8 Million To Build Gas Main to Iran

OW0202213593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2002 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers has allocated $1.8 million to state corporation "Ukrgaz" to form the Ukrainian part of the statutory fund in the joint Iranian-Azeri-Ukrainian company. On Tuesday [2 February] the Ukrainian radio reported that this company is to design and build a gas-main "Iran-Ukraine."

An agreement to create a joint venture was reached last year. The gas-main will be laid from Iran on the territory of Russia and Azerbaijan.

National Affairs

Kuchma Offers Economic Program for 'Bankrupt State'

OW0202175293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1730 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Report by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Tuesday [2 February] the parliament proceeded with hearings on anti-crisis program of the government at its session. The day before Premier Leonid Kuchma declared in Donetsk that "today Ukraine needs a tough government and strong executive power." He supported this conclusion by several facts. Ukraine finished last year with a deficit totalling 1 trillion 325 billion Ukrainian karbovanetses; according to the Premier, it practically makes Ukraine "a bankrupt state."

Speaking about near-term plans to replenish the budget, Kuchma, in particular, mentioned the fact that, as he assessed, 60% of cargoes exported from Russian to Europe, are being transported via Ukraine's territory. He believes that Russia should pay $20 billion annually for transit of these cargoes. "We still do not take a single kopek for this," the government's head pointed out. As he put it, "this is our last argument in dispute with Russia." He called freezing of large capital construction among the priority measures having underlined that these steps "will not concern sites belonging to social sphere."

IF [INTERFAX] Note: Earlier Premier declared that the day of discussion of anti-crisis governmental program by the Supreme Soviet is one of the hardest days in his life. He believes that while confirming Cabinet's program, Ukrainian parliament must take a part of the responsibility for its implementation. At the same time he underlined that representatives of different economic structures participated in its development, it contains many provisions of the program developed by Ukrainian union of industrialists and entrepreneurs. Cabinet's program envisages tough measures aimed at financial stabilization; at the same time some days ago the parliament adopted a resolution recommending to the government, in particular, to fix prices for milk, several kinds of sausages, sugar, salt, vegetable oil. The Supreme Soviet also recommends to consider the possibility of food distribution corresponding certain norms (on coupons or cards).

In Kuchma's words, the government will correct the programs "every day" depending upon deliveries of fuel and energy from Russia and Turkmenistan.

Government Discusses Various Anti-Crisis Measures

OW0202202693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2000 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Tuesday [2 February], the Ukrainian parliament discussed the program of anti-crisis measures, proposed by the Ukrainian government. Ukrainian Vice-Premier Viktor Pynzenyk said that the new program is based on the idea of combining macro- and microeconomic stabilization, establishing control over emission, monetary circulation and the population's incomes, and attaining a balance between the rate of growth of the population's incomes and the supply of goods.

Priority importance should be attached to measures to restore control over the economy by the ministries, to cut down taxes, to reduce the value-added tax from 28 to 20 per cent instead of levying the income tax; to free farmers from the income tax, to give tax privileges to the enterprises manufacturing goods which were not produced in Ukraine previously, to abolish export and import duties on goods brought in from and taken to the CIS states, to free exporters from hard-currency taxes and to put a time limit on the transfer of money by enterprises.

In terms of structural policies, priority should be given to measures to diminish Ukraine's dependence on fuel supplies from other states. With this end in view, the government intends to build oil terminals in the Ukrainian sea ports, to perfect the procession of oil at Ukrainian oil refineries, to develop the Ukrainian oil fields and to save energy. The government also proposes increasing Ukrainian exports of instruments to foreign countries, encouraging the exports of manufactured goods and protecting the domestic market.

In terms of property reform, the Ukrainian government intends to implement a program for small-scale privatization, to incorporate large enterprises and to turn state and collective farms into joint-stock societies.

The personnel of large privatized enterprises will be given privileges in obtaining the shares of their enterprises.

The Ukrainian vice-premier announced that the Cabinet will support small and medium industrial enterprises by extending state loans to them, place state orders with such enterprises and guarantee their access to foreign loans.

In the financial sphere, the government has plans to cover the budget deficit at the expense of bank credits and the issuing of securities. The vice-premier stated that the National Bank of Ukraine's interest rate will exceed the rate of inflation. The government's ultimate goal is to ensure the inner convertibility of the karbovanets and a subsequent ban on the circulation of foreign currencies in Ukraine.

In the budget sphere, the government will take measures to prevent the growth of the internal debt. It will shift the burden of budget spending onto the local governments, cut down subsidies to manufacturers, increase payments to the low-income groups and regulate the enterprises' consumption funds without putting a limit on individual wages.

In terms of pricing policy, the government intends to establish state prices on the products, put out by enterprises enjoying the status of natural monopolists, and introduce the practice of declaring prices on products, put out by artificial monopolists. Vice-Premier Pynzenyk announced that the Cabinet has plans to introduce a special regime for exporting raw materials, whereby a greater part of the income, gained at the expense of the difference between the internal and world prices, will go to the state budget.

Economics Minister Cited

LD0202195893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1655 GMT 2 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Gordeyev]

[Text] Kiev February 2 TASS—Ukraine plans to restore state management of economy and reduce taxes to boost production, according to the basics of the national economic programme for 1993.

Economics Minister Viktor Pynzenyk told lawmakers that "romantic approaches to economic transformations...do not always meet the realities of our life". "It is better to betray pure theory, but save production", he added.

The minister said it is necessary to restore the management of the state sector of economy through ministries on conditions that the bureaucracy is not allowed to interfere into everyday management of enterprises. To promote entrepreneural activity the profit tax should be decreased to 30 per cent and the value added tax to 20 per cent, while agricultural producers should be tax exempt at all, according to Pynzenyk.

Moreover, the Ukrainian Government wants to free from tax payments for one year those enterprises which initiated a new type of production. Hard currency profit tax is also to be cancelled. The economic programme calls to decrease Ukrainian dependence on fuel and energy from other countries by developing its own oil deposits and introducing energy-saving methods.

The government wants to introduce state control on prices for monopolists because the "appetites and shame of home producers are not ready for market relations", the minister said.

More on Anti-Crisis Program

OW0302130693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1104 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Wednesday [3 February] the Supreme Soviet of Ukraine discussed the government's plan of action for 1993 on the realization of "The Basis of a National Economic Policy", presented the day before by Vice-Premier Viktor Pynzenyk.

On Tuesday the majority of those who spoke at the evening session of deputies on the whole supported the government plan suggesting separate additions to it.

The critical observation on the essence of the program came from the group of deputies representing the eastern regions of Ukraine. In their opinion the plan of action suffers from declarative pretensions, unsteadiness of formulation and does not give a presentation of the program of the government on the whole period of its tenure.

It is expected that on Wednesday leaders of large political parties and movements of the republic—the People's Rukh, the Socialist Party and the union "New Ukraine"—will express their relation [word as received] to the government plan.

Odessa Leader Assails Kravchuk for Economic Problems

LD0102230093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2115 GMT 1 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yefim Shvartsman]

[Text] Odessa, 1 February—A session of Odessa Oblast Soviet of People's Deputies starts work today. Its attention is centered on the catastrophic state of the oblast's economy, which incidentally differs little from the general state of affairs in Ukraine.

At a meeting with representatives of the media before the session, Oblast Soviet Chairman Ruslan Bodelan criticized the standpoints of President Leonid Kravchuk and the parliament, stressing that one of the reasons for the crisis is Ukraine's self-isolation and its severing of economic ties after the disintegration of the USSR, for which, in his words, "those who advocated severing those ties should bear full responsibility." Bodelan does not rule out thea possibility that in the future the issue of confidence in the president might be raised in the form of a referendum. He also declared that he is against the institution of the president's representatives in the provinces, which "proved to be useless" and which in fact resulted in a power crisis.

This political demonstration on the part of the chairman of Odessa Oblast Soviet has some interesting details to it: Ruslan Bodelan—in common with, indeed, the present president of Ukraine—was a career party worker in the not too distant past and held the post of first secretary of the oblast committee of the communist party in the city, where an attempt to hold a constituent congress of the republic's communists is known to have taken place recently. He got into the Ukrainian Parliament only a short while ago, after a by-election at the end of last year when he replaced a deputy who had left. It was in that capacity that he made his debut in Kiev, when he signed a draft decision, worked out by a group of parliamentarians, on rescinding the decree which banned the activity of Ukraine's communist party.

Minister Appoints Acting Chief of Armed Forces Staff

LD0202222993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2201 GMT 2 Feb 93

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Sergey Balykov for TASS]

[Text] Kiev February 3 TASS—Ukrainian Defence Minister Konstyantyn Morozov appointed Colonel-General Anatoliy Lopata acting chief of the Main Staff of the Ukrainian Armed Forces on Tuesday [2 February].

Lopata will also act as first deputy defence minister. Before the appointment, he worked as deputy defence minister.

Lopata, 52, was born in Ukraine. He graduated from a military school in Baku, Azerbaijan, and two military academies.

He was a commander of a motorised infantry division, an army corps and Northern Group of Soviet troops. Lopata has two children.

National Guard Begins Public Order Duties

LD0102223593 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Network in Ukrainian 1700 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] Changes and additions have been introduced by the Ukrainian Supreme Council to the law on the Ukrainian National Guard, and the provisions concerning the duties and rights of the personnel of the National Guard. From today the Guard is to be included in protecting public order. Training of personnel is already being completed in units and subdivisions deployed in 12 oblasts. Patrol routes have been worked out, and communication and transport means have been prepared. Combat service has already begun in Donetsk, Zaporozhye, and Dnepropetrovsk. It will begin in other towns in the near future.

President Issues Decree on Structure of Armed Forces

LD0202214093 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] With the aim of increasing combat readiness and reforming the Armed Forces of Ukraine, and in accordance with the fourth article of the law of Ukraine on the Armed Forces of Ukraine, the president of Ukraine, by means of his decree of 28 January, has instructed that a unified type of Armed Forces of Ukraine be formed on the basis of an Air Force [viyskovo-povitryani syly] and air defense troops [viyska oborony povitryanoho prostoru].

Statesmen View Variants of Country's Future Course

AU0202131293 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 29 Jan 93 p 2

[Interview with People's Deputies Yuriy Zbitnyev and Vitold Fokin, by Kostyantyn Paryshkura in Kiev on 29 January: "Deputies on the Current Situation"]

[Text] **Yesterday, a HOLOS UKRAYINY correspondent met in the lobby with two people's deputies and asked them to briefly comment on the principal current problems.**

[Zbitnyev] There are no principal problems among those that are being discussed in the parliament today: the lack of coordination in mutual financial settlements between the two states or on the illusory nature of the national income, and, hence, the priorities in the supply of energy sources, development of entrepreneurship, and growth of production. Enterprises must not engage in uncontrolled increase of wages. The fund for the remuneration for labor must be fixed and must depend on the productivity of labor. There is yet another priority—to give more independence to regions.

If the government's plan collapses on Tuesday [2 February], it will be a fiasco not only for the short-term course that the government tried to follow, but also a failure in the external political sphere. There will be further destabilization, and no measures taken by the government or by the Supreme Council regarding ensuring social protection of the low-income strata of the population will be fruitful. That is why trade unions raise the question correctly, in particular, Ukraine's Trade Union Federation—on the violation of the agreements on tariffs. All of this may lead to further spasmodic inflation following which no economic methods will be able to mend the situation. Political methods alone remain. Three variants of the development of the situation are possible. Anarchy is the least favorable of them. A less disastrous variant is dictatorship. An optimal one is a change in Ukraine's state structure—more specifically, to a federative-land structure with greater independence for regions. Changes in the language policy and in the taxation policy are possible. Institutions of a single state are the only thing that must remain unchanged.

[Fokin] The situation in the parliament corresponds to the nonuniform character of its composition: dissimilar political creeds and dissimilar world outlooks. I think that reason will prevail and that there will be no exacerbation of the situation, as was the case yesterday.

[Paryshkura] What do you think of the present government?

[Fokin] I think that it is confronted with a task whose complexity is not comprehended by everybody. The very fact of signing an agreement with Russia is not even a half-deal, because any agreement is just an intention on the part of sides. We must not only think of whether Russia is capable of fulfilling its obligations. We must think of whether Ukraine will be able to fulfill the obligations stipulated by the agreement. This is first. Second: 20 million tonnes of oil is certainly better than nothing, but it is less than half of what Ukraine needs. That is why I think that, contrary to what Vice Premier Ioffe says, the problem cannot be considered resolved. The only chance is the creation of a joint Ukrainian-Russian concession. Russian President Yeltsin's proposal regarding the renewed exploitation of tens of thousands of dead oil wells by the forces of Ukraine does not, in my opinion, guarantee oil for Ukraine and, at the same time, requires great expenditure. The effect will be questionable, because Ukraine, if it accepts the proposal, will invest money in the development of capacities that do not belong to us. That is why counting upon this oil is the same as selling the bear's skin before one has caught the bear.

Rukh Leader Wants To Form Alliance

AU0202214393 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 29 Jan 93 p 7

[Commentary by Volodymyr Skachko: "Rukh Calls Democrats for Alliance"]

[Text] V. Chornovil, leader of Ukraine's People's Rukh [Movement for Perestroyka], stated at a news conference that the People's Rukh of Ukraine, while supporting L. Kuchma's government, is aiming the main arrows of his political opposition at the Supreme Council in its present composition, because it is from within its walls that calls for overthrowing the government are echoing. In order to "sort out" the question of the parliament, Rukh is planning to initiate, in spring, a petition for the holding of yet another referendum for an early dissolution of the deputies corps.

Another important aspect in the activity of Ukraine's People's Rukh is the appeal by its central leadership to representatives of democratic parties and movements to create an pan-Ukrainian anticommunist and anti-imperialist alliance. Rukh would like to enlist the support of the Ukrainian Republican, Democratic, Peasants Democratic, Conservative Republican, Christian Democratic, and two Social Democratic parties, as well as Ukraine's Green Party, the "New Ukraine" Association, the All-Ukrainian "Prosvita" [enlightenment] Society, the All-Ukrainian Society of Repressed People, the Union of Ukrainian Youth, and personally I. Drach, D. Pavlychko, and others. The first working session of the future alliance is tentatively planned for 29 January. It is still not known what will come out of this, but V. Chornovil, urging the need for the alliance, pointed out that it is not necessary to look for who was the first to suggest an alliance, but that the main thing was to make one.

Narodny Rukh Gains Official Status as Political Party

OW0302125393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1103 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Narodny Rukh, Ukraine's leading political organisation of national and democratic orientation, registered its charter with the Ministry of Justice Tuesday [2 February] in order to receive official status as a political party.

Rukh remains a mass organisation with a two-tier membership (fixed for members of the movement and unfixed for sympathisers).

Vyacheslav Chornovil, Rukh's leader, said on national television Tuesday that his party remained the biggest political organisation in the republic.

New Anti-Communist, Anti-Imperial Front Emerges

LD0102215193 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] The organizing committee of the newly formed Anti-communist and Anti-imperial Front of Ukraine has held its first news conference for Ukrainian and foreign journalists. As was accurately noted, such a gathering with a common joint position has not been observed for a long time, at least since the times of the formation of the Ukrainian People's Movement for Perestroyka. The real threat of a resurgence of the former totalitarian system, and with it also the communist party in Ukraine, has forced them to emerge as a single consolidated force forgetting [word indistinct] misunderstandings and having put an end to the fear [passage indistinct] model for the construction of the state the leaders of progressive parties and civil organizations of a national democratic tendency.

It appears that in the near future it is planned to include the question of this group's legalization on the agenda of the seventh session of Ukraine's Supreme Council. Considering therefore, that such a course of events is unacceptable, and in an effort to fulfill the [words indistinct] civil duty before the people in defending the independence of the Ukrainian state, the Anti-communist and Anti-imperialist Front of Ukraine has addressed an appeal to the chairman of the Supreme Council and also approved [words indistinct] 21 February the all-Ukrainian forum of democratic forces, having concentrated all their activity on extinguishing the political tension in Ukraine.

Belarus

Parliament To Rule on CIS Charter at Next Session

OW0202150593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1429 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Belarusian parliament is likely to include the ratification of the CIS Charter, signed by the CIS heads of state in Minsk on January 22, in the agenda of the next session, a coordinator of the faction Belarus and the prime minister's chief adviser Nikolay Skorynin told INTERFAX in an exclusive interview.

Skorynin believes that the text of the Charter, coordinated by experts and confirmed by the heads of state, should not be amended. The parliament will only have to vote for or against this inter-state document, he said.

He noted, however, that the CIS Charter may be ratified with certain reservations, including the one which does not recognize the provision dealing with the participation of Belarus in the treaty on collective security. "The Belarusian parliament has adopted a declaration which documents the state's goal of becoming a neutral state uninvolved in any military unions or alliances," said Skorynin.

The faction Belarus is the biggest parliamentary faction which has about 120 members, most of them leaders of local councils, collective and state farms, industrial enterprises and law-enforcement bodies. Local observers believe that this faction actually determines the work of the parliament.

Borisov Plant Begins Dismantling Combat Tanks

PM0202144793 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 0600 GMT 1 Feb 93

[By Aleksey Zhuk; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Zhuk] The Borisov armored equipment repair plant, which is now well known, and not just to the military, has entered the next phase in the elimination of conventional weapons. Under the European treaty and other international agreements which the Republic of Belarus has signed, the task in hand is to dismantle over 1,500 battle tanks. Heads of diplomatic missions were invited to the launch of the operation.

After a tank has been cut up, it is no longer a unit of combat equipment. Designers have already drawn up designs for the use of former tanks for civilian purposes as tow trucks, chassis for various cranes, and machinery for use in the countryside.

[Deputy Defense Minister V.G. Yakushev] All this is being monitored by the countries which are parties to the Vienna agreements, just as we monitor the same processes in other countries. We believe that our task will certainly be carried out, and indeed within the 40-month deadline that has been laid down under the treaty.

Baranovichi To Become Third Dismantlement Center

WS0202133193 Minsk NARODNAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Jan 93 p 1

[Article by NARODNAYA GAZETA Correspondent Ales Sivyi:"Number Three Is Asking for Permission To Land...."]

[Text] In accordance with the concluded international agreements, at the end of January 1993, Baranovichi will become the third Belarusian center for the dismantlement of military fighting equipment.

The first two centers—in Borisov and Stankovo—specialize in the dismantlement of armory, artillery and missile equipment. As we were told in the Belarusian Defense Ministry, the center in Baranovichi will serve for the dismantlement of missile equipment. The procedure will be carried out under the surveillance of international inspection.

To Destroy Military Aircraft

LD0202230093 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1300 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Text] The Lesnaya base for the liquidation of intermediate-range missiles in Baranovichi Rayon has resumed work after the destruction of the deadly weapons and after some lull. Instead of missiles, aircraft are now arriving there in accordance with the treaty on the reduction of weapons in Europe. Workers and specialists at the Baranovichi aviation repairs enterprise are dismantling the military machinery. The destruction of the fuselage and other body parts will be carried out in the presence of international experts.

Deputies Comment on State Property Privatization, Laws

WS0102133193 Minsk BELINFORM in Russian 1041 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Text] "By adopting the law on denationalization and privatization of state property and by rejecting the law on nominal privatization vouchers, the Belarusian legislature has actually denied its people access to free property," stated Viktor Alampiyev, deputy chairman of the Committee for Economic Reform, Independence, and Sovereignty, at a press conference. According to him, only those who have accumulated certain amounts of funds and foreign capital will be able to participate in this process, because the current savings of the population are enough for purchasing only 5 percent of state property. This opinion was shared by deputies Vladimir Telezhnikov, Vladimir Sapronov, and Pavel Shkapich who are the authors of the laws on privatization. They expressed their bewilderment concerning such illogical decisions of the legislature.

No less was the surprise of the deputies at the elimination of the draft law on land ownership from the Supreme Council agenda. Pavel Shkapich, who is also collective farm chairman, complained about the actions of the government and the Agrarian Committee. The Council of Ministers changed its concept on this issue at the very last moment and in this way, created conditions for the committee to remove this item. The deputy believes that the adoption of this law was deliberately delayed.

Deputy Vladimir Telezhnikov called the idea of collective privatization dangerous. "In fact, this is privatization based on social indicators which is no less dangerous than privatization based on national features," he stressed.

Despite everything the press conference struck an optimistic cord. The participants expressed their belief that the process of privatization in Belarus is imminent and that it is only a question of time.

Shaladonov on Draft Law on Prosecutor's Office

WS0102134493 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1300 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Interview with General Prosecutor of the Republic of Belarus Vasil Ivanavich Shaladonov by special correspondent Mikhail Rutkovski at the 10th session of the Belarusian legislature—live; first paragraph is Rutkovski's introduction]

[Text] [Rutkovski] One more working week of the Belarusian legislature is over, but there are still 12 issues on the agenda. I expect that the tenth session of the legislature will be working with all its might all next week. Today's session started with the discussion of the draft law on the office of the prosecutor. This draft law has been worked out by the legislative commission headed by Vyacheslav Ivanavich Gryb. Vyachelav Gryb said that 238 deputies voted in favor of this law. I asked Belarusian General Prosecutor Vasil Ivanavich Shaladonov to answer our questions. Vasil Ivanavich, what new powers have been granted to the officers of the prosecutor's office by this law?

[Shaladonov] First, and I would like to stress, we have not been granted any extra powers. The law regulates the work of the prosecutor's office. We cannot work the way we had worked in the past. Currently, we are living and working in the independent Republic of Belarus but are bound by the Law on the Office of the Prosecutor in the USSR. So, our task is to regulate all the work of the Republican prosecutor's office. I am sure that this law will invigorate the prosecutor's program of work. Our officers will be aware of their importance for the Republic, and the Republic will provide the legal basis for their work and protect them.

[Rutkovski] The deputies have just started to discuss the draft law on enhancement of combating economic crime and corruption. You presented a report. What do you think of this law?

[Shaladonov] My opinion is: we are building a law-abiding state. The laws which have already been adopted, like the laws On Enterprise, On Private Business, do not match each other. Some dodgers use these dissimilarities and make fortunes using the state's property. That is why we must bring all the laws into conformity with one another and give the law protecting organs a legal basis to use the state property in the interests of the whole Republic, and not in the interests of a manager of an enterprise or a shop chief.

[Rutkovski] What do you think about the Decree on Privatization?

[Shaladonov] As far as I know, inspection of the former privatized enterprises is going on. Inspectors are evaluating the correctness of the estimated state property which has been privatized. You see, I cannot blame the Belarusian Cabinet of Ministers because people can make mistakes. How could we guess that we would be in the process of privatization these days? We should differentiate between two cases: when state officials abuse their power or when they are simply undereducated in the matter and cannot find a proper solution.

[Rutkovski] How will the prosecutor's office treat the officials who are using privatization for mercenary purposes?

[Shaladonov] The answer is: according to the law.

Minsk Announces New Ambassadorial Appointments

OW0202155693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1515 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, Igor Porshnev, and Dimitriy Voskoboynikov: from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The presidium of the Belarusian parliament has appointed Viktor Danilenko, who earlier held the post of the Belarusian government's envoy to the Russian government, as ambassador to Russia. Nina Mazay, who previously served as deputy prime minister and subsequently as ambassador to the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, has been appointed as ambassador to France. The presidium also appointed Belarus's ambassador to the USA: Sergey Martynov, who previously served as deputy envoy to the U.N.

The presidium of the Belarusian parliament appointed Anatoliy Mardovich as the country's ambassador to Switzerland. Earlier he held the post of Belarus's representative at the affiliations of the U.N. and other international organizations in Geneva.

DP's [Diplomatic Panorama] correspondent was told at the press service of the Foreign Ministry in Minsk that the country's embassy to Switzerland will be temporarily located in Geneva, not in Bern. According to a member of the press service, this is connected with "the limited opportunities for financing an embassy in the costly capital of Switzerland".

Moldova

Snegur's 'Anti-Romanian' Statement Divides Society

AU0202194293 Bucharest TINERETUL LIBER in Romanian 30-31 Jan 93 p 1

[Viorel Patrichi editorial: "The Unionists Are Leaving the Chisinau Parliament"]

[Text] The crisis triggered off by President Mircea Ion Snegur's anti-Romanian statement on 24 December 1992 has divided the entire Bessarabian society. With this attitude, Mr. Snegur with arms and equipment has boarded the boat sailed by Smirnov and the kolkhoz leaders. The moment the president showed his true colors, the (Soviet) conservative forces launched their offensive. The only upright politicians still able to promote a (not compulsory inherent Romanian) progressive line were the unionists within the Chisinau Parliament. The unionists have always struggled for the separation from Russia and Ukraine, the achievement of a market economy, and for a genuine integration with Romania and the Western countries. All these elements endangered the caste positions beyond the Prut River. A kolkhoz chief takes the place of the former landlord and the farmers still obey him, without realizing that in doing so they are condemning themselves to living under communism and the former empire. Consequently, the Bolsheviks had to eliminate the unionists. They boycotted the parliamentary proceedings and blackmailed the leadership of this institution, which was insufficiently under the control of Moscow and Kiev. Given this situation, the only solution was to eliminate those people.

Consequently, Messrs. Alexandru Mosanu, parliament president; Ion Hadirca, parliamentary vice president; Vasile Nedelciuc, chief of the Foreign Affairs Commission; and Valeriu Matei, president of the Committee for the Mass Media tendered their resignations. This was the only honorable solution for the constructive opposition from Chisinau. Their political prestige will be saved if the kolkhoz chiefs return to the modern parliament building or if primaries inevitably take place. However, there is something good in everything! A political class had to be formed in Chisinau and deputies who had been nominated on the basis of communist criteria had to be discarded at all costs.

Anyhow, Alexandru Mosanu's resignation will greatly annoy President Mircea Ivanovich Snegur, who travel's between Beijing and Paris to consolidate the Switzerland on the Prut River. But Westerners will finally understand that this new Switzerland will slowly but surely turn again into a bulwark of the former Czarist empire in this part of Europe, that reforms will amble along in a collectivist fashion despite the American most favored nation status, that nothing will change in the millennium-old cradle of the ruble, and that Romania will be compelled to close the border on the Prut, despite all our flower bridges where tears of joy were shed. Thus, if the unionists are to be annihilated, the Russians and Ukrainians will swallow up all of us because we are quite alike: And Mr. Ion Iliescu, an occasional unionist, affirms that the opposition is causing difficulties (the beneficial influence of Counselor Dan Iosif can be felt); the 1991 file of the terrorist Doina Cornea has been found and the poet from Birca [Adrian Paunescu] will "honorably" represent us in Strasbourg.

Trying to overcome the disposition of the times, let us hope that rational and honest people in Bessarabia will support the efforts made by the unionists toward our national restoration.

Snegur Cited on Mosanu's Resignation

AU0202182093 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1626 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Chisinau ROMPRES, 2/2/1993—In an interview with the press correspondent of station, President Mircea Snegur of Moldova referred to the resignation of Parliament President Alexandru Mosanu in the following terms: "As long as the president of parliament cannot find a common language with the majority of parliament members, it is up to him to decide what to do."

President Snegur also said that if parliament were to be dissolved, the president of the republic was invested by constitution with enough prerogatives to run the affairs of the state, and added that it was important for the economic reform to go on.

Comments on 'Parliamentary Crisis'

OW0202175893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1727 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Report by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The present parliamentary crisis is caused by deputies' disability to work and by unwillingness to see one's own mistakes," declared President Mircea Snegur. Addressing the Moldovan population over the national TV on Monday [1 February] evening, he denied accusations on the part of parliamentarians who asserted that "the New Year congratulation of the President has become an apple of discord thrown into the parliament and the society."

IF [INTERFAX] Note: On December 24 President Snegur put forward a proposal to conduct a referendum confirming Moldova's independence which, as he said, would put an end to talks about unification with Romania.

"The real reasons of the crisis,—President believes,—concern the fact that the majority of the parliamentarians acts on behalf of the people though they have broken all ties with the people long ago. And, secondly, the parliament's leadership is not able to consolidate parliament and to govern legislative organ." Snegur assessed the statement of the speaker and three members of the presidium about resignation as "a deliberate step aimed at the destabilization of situation in Moldova."

"Statements about resignation were presented on that day when I was in Paris to sign a bilateral treaty on cooperation," President underlined. He reminded that Vasiliu Nedelciuc, chairman of permanent commission on international relations, who signed the statement, knew about this.

The head of the state accused the parliament of inactivity. He stressed that deputies' statements, that in the last period of time the legislative body was working rather fruitfully, are groundless; for example, during two months before President's New Year congratulation the parliament adopted only 17 decrees, 7 of them are about changes in earlier adopted documents.

President believes that now there are no contradictions between the legislative and executive authorities because the parliamentary majority supports President and government. He supported position of parliamentary majority which proposes to conduct a referendum on two major articles of the Constitution confirming republic's independence. "Referendum is neither invention, no ambitions of President and parliamentary majority," Snegur underlined. "We should consult the people and not to break ties with our people. That one who ignores this fact can become a political corps," declared the head of the state.

President believes that his statement about the necessity to consult the people is not ungrounded. According to Snegur, opposition's actions forced him to undertake this step as having created national council of reunification, the opposition gradually strives to unite Moldova and Romania.

Speaking about his attitude towards the CIS, Snegur underlined that "his positions remained unchanged." He stands for development of cooperation within CIS on a bilateral and multilateral basis. Snegur positively assessed the fact that majority of republic's enterprises have concluded agreements for 1993 with all partners of the former USSR. He also noted that last year the republic concluded only 40% of such agreements and this year—70%-100%. In President's words, this will help to speed up Moldova's going out of the economic crisis. "There are too many political talks about the CIS,—Snegur said. "We should concentrate attention on economic issues. Moldova did not participate and will not participate in discussion of political and military issues. But economic issues can be solved only by joint efforts." President positively assessed a resolution adopted in Minsk about creation of Interstate Bank. According to Snegur, Moldova already feels results of this decision. Snegur also reported that the republic has already published its national currency but the terms of its introduction have not been determined yet. As he said, introduction of national monetary unit is quite possible until the end of this year. "Moldova still remains in the ruble zone and is open for cooperation with all states." Snegur underlined.

Parliament Accepts Resignations

LD0202220293 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 2 Feb 93

[By correspondent Sokirke from Chisinau, including recording of interview with President Mircea Snegur; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] The parliament of Moldova held a secret ballot today on the resignation of its leadership. According to law, a resignation can only be accepted by a majority of deputies' votes, which is not easy to achieve if most of the deputies from the Dnestr and Gagauz regions are absent.

[Sokirke] For several days now the Moldovan press, radio, and television have been discussing the resignations of Parliament Chairman Alexandru Mosanu, his First Deputy Ion Hadirca, and two members of the presidium. Conflicting opinions are being expressed. Some people see such a step as an indication of the increased activities of the militarists, i.e. those who are in favor of unification with Romania. Others see it as a protest against Moldova joining the CIS, and still others like to see it simply as a proof of the parliament's incapability. Whatever the case, the parliament held its secret ballot on this question at noon today. Mr. President, how do you evaluate the present situation in the republic?

[Snegur] The situation in the republic is calm. As for the parliamentary crisis, I think this is just one of the attributes of democracy, an attribute of freedom, a will expressed by the parliament's majority. This means that it can also affect the minority in the parliament as well.

[Announcer] As our correspondent has reported just now, the deputies of the Republic of Moldova have accepted the resignation of their Parliament Speaker Alexandru Mosanu and his First Deputy Ion Hadirca by a majority of votes. Election of the new chairman of the parliament is planned for tomorrow.

More Resignations; Puscasu Acting Chairman

AU0202183993 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1800 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Bogdan Alexandru report from Chisinau]

[Text] During today's afternoon session of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova, the results of the secret ballot on the resignation of the four members of the Parliament Presidium were announced.

Only three of the resignation requests—those of [Parliament Chairman] Alexandru Mosanu, [Parliament Vice Chairman] Ion Hadirca, and [parliamentary commission chairman] Valeriu Matei—have been accepted. The resignation of Mr. Vasile Nedelciuc [parliamentary commission chairman] was not accepted.

During the afternoon session a new resignation request has been forwarded by Mr. Pavel Gusac, chairman of the Parliamentary Commission for Ecology Issues. His request was also turned down by secret vote. Mr. Mihai Ghimpu, vice chairman of the commission for juridical issues has also announced his wish to resign. His request is to be decided upon during tomorrow's parliamentary meeting, when proposals are expected to be made with respect to the election of the new chairman of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova. Meanwhile, that office is held on an ad-interim basis by Mr. Victor Puscasu, who until now used to be vice chairman of parliament.

Kazakhstan

Laws on Military Doctrine, Armed Forces Adopted

PM2901163393 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Jan 93 p 1

[Colonel Anatoliy Ladin report: "Six Laws for the Military. Kazakhstan Forms Legal Basis for Army Organizational Development"]

[Text] Unlike its CIS partners Ukraine and Belarus, which intend to formalize their military doctrines as separate legal documents, Kazakhstan has taken a somewhat different route. People here think that military doctrine should include many legislative acts defining the state's military policy and military organizational development and the preparation of the Republic and its Armed Forces to repulse possible outside aggression. Documents about methods of waging war, regulations, and instructions concerning the troops' internal life should be an integral part of this doctrine.

Military doctrine will be based on a package of laws relating to the sphere of defense and national security. Six of these laws have been adopted by the present ninth Supreme Soviet session (examination of the "military package" ended last week)—"On Defense and the Republic of Kazakhstan Armed Forces," "On the Republic of Kazakhstan State Border," "On Republic of Kazakhstan Border Troops," "On Compulsory Military Service Obligation and Military Service," "On the Status of and Social Protection for Servicemen and Their Family Members," and "On Pensions for Servicemen, Command Personnel, and Enlisted Ranks in Internal Affairs Organs and Their Family Members." Amendments have also been made to the laws on internal affairs security organs and on the internal troops.

Thus the legal basis for the Armed Forces has virtually been created. The drafts caused no particular disputes in parliament. The exception was the articles of the laws "On Compulsory Military Service Obligation and Military Service" and "On Defense and the Armed Forces of the Republic of Kazakhstan" speaking of the expenditure involved in training draftees for service, in the conduct of training camps for military reservists, in enlisting medical specialists for draft commissions, and in training students at higher educational establishments' military departments. The people compiling the drafts proposed that this expenditure be covered from the budgets of various organizations, but in every case deputies voted in favor of these measures being funded by the Defense Ministry.

In other respects no precedents were set at the session. Commenting on the package of military laws adopted by the parliament, Lieutenant General Anatoliy Ryabtsev, first deputy defense minister, said in conversation with your KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent that the content of the new laws is primarily designed to further stabilize the situation within troop collectives and alleviate tension and lack of confidence in the future among servicemen. After all, following the breakup of the USSR 1,517 officers left Kazakhstan and another 836 are about to leave. While only 621 officers have arrived in the republic from other CIS countries. A reliable, socially secure legal basis for the organizational development of the Kazakhstan Armed Forces will make it possible, in Lt. Gen. Ryabtsev's opinion, to avert the exodus of qualified military cadres.

On the basis of the new laws one can already hypothesize how the Kazakhstan Armed Forces will be formed. They will consist of the army, border and internal troops, and a republic guard. In turn the army is to include ground troops, air forces, air defense troops, and naval units (Kazakhstan has an outlet to the Caspian), as well as combat, special, and rear services support subunits and civil defense troop formations.

The intention is to perform the cadre tasks of developing the republic's own armed forces and formulating defense policy in three phases.

The first phase (scheduled to last through late 1992) is virtually complete: Defense Ministry structures and organs of management for branches of the Armed Forces have been formed and the main legal documents pertaining to their development and activity have been formulated.

During the second and third phases (through 1995-96) army structures will continue to be improved, the principles of contract staffing will be determined once and for all, and problems as regards equipping units and formations with new, highly maneuverable equipment will be resolved.

By and large, when assessing the laws adopted by the session, it can be asserted quite obviously that Kazakhstan's military doctrine is indeed defensive in character, poses no threat to any state, and rejects the use of military force as a means of resolving interstate conflicts. The documents within the "military package" are also designed to ensure that, first, as a result of the reform of former Soviet Army formations and units the Armed Forces of Kazakhstan are not weakened, but remain a reliable link within the CIS system of collective security and, second, that servicemen in the new army have secure legal status.

Tajikistan

CIS Military Visit to Tajikistan 'Fruitful'

LD0302134793 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 0400 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] The working visit of generals and officers of the military commissariat of the joint armed forces of the CIS to Dushanbe was fruitful. In a short period of time they discussed the problems of working out the defense ministry structure and the armed forces of the republic which are being set up.

However, military experts did not impose their proposals on the Tajik military: they simply worked out a number of proposals for the Tajik army that would be acceptable in the contemporary conditions of the republic. This was stated to a correspondent of KHOVAR, the Tajik news agency, by Maj. Gen. Farrukh Niyazov, deputy chief of staff of the Joint Armed Forces of the CIS and permanent representative of the Republic of Tajikistan to the Joint Armed Forces.

Niyazov noted that a stage by stage creation of the armed forces of Tajikistan and the types of its armed forces had been determined. One of the first tasks will be the creation of infantry troops and anti-aircraft defense. In the near future other types of [word indistinct] troops are to be supplied. In working out [the proposals] a number of factors are being considered; first and foremost the geopolitical situation of Tajikistan and also a number of local special characteristics of the mountain republic, which must have a mobile army equipped with up to date combat hardware.

The republic's military doctrine is of a defensive nature, and will be directed at ensuring territorial integrity, sovereignty, and constitutional order. This is the main principle in building the republic's own armed forces, stressed Gen. Niyazov. He noted that during the working out of proposals on the armed forces of Tajikistan, this question is constantly kept in the (?field of its activity).

Rakhmonov: Russian Credits Needed To Revive Economy

OW0202193093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1729 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Report by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In the opinion of Tajik Parliament Chairman Imamali Rakhmonov, Russian credits and other material and humanitarian aid will play the most important role in the rebirth of the republic's economy, which has been destroyed by civil war. During a visit to the Khotlon oblast of the republic, Rakhmonov said he was confident about the readiness of Russia's leadership, in the person of Boris Yeltsin, to grant the Tajik cabinet interest-free technical credits totalling 241 billion rubles. According to the Tajik leader, a significant part of the funds given by Russia will be used to rebuild the regions most heavily damaged by the fighting.

Earlier, in an interview with Interfax, Rakhmonov said that the main result of his recent negotiations in Moscow was an agreement to sign, in the first ten days of February, a treaty and an inter-governmental agreement between the two countries.

Rakhmonov said was satisfied with the "businesslike tone" of the Moscow meetings with Yeltsin, during which the Russian president promised large-scale aid, including food, fuel, and machine lubricants. In addition, he said, according to a personal directive from President Yeltsin, in the coming week the ministry of health is to send a group of doctors carrying medications worth 1 million rubles.

The parliament speaker also referred to the importance of support offered by other Commonwealth states, including Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. He reported, in particular, that the republic would be receiving 400,000 tons of grain from Kazakhstan within five months. "This means that Tajikistan will not starve," he said. He pointed out a detail which he considered noteworthy: half of the grain was originally intended for Russia, but Boris Yeltsin "allowed it to be given to Tajikistan due to the republic's greater need."

"We have the feeling," concluded Rakhmonov, "that our troubles are being met with sympathy and an honest desire to help."

IF [INTERFAX] Note: According to the estimates of government experts and statisticians, Tajik Prime Minister Abdulmalik Abdullodzhanov announced a few days ago, the total economic damage sustained this year by Tajikistan as a result of the war was on the order of $200 million. For instance, cotton, of which 900,000 tons was scheduled for harvesting, came to only 300,000 tons. Only 340,000 tons of aluminum was manufactured out of a planned 500,000 tons. According to the prime minister, about 25%-30% of all credits granted to the republic are being used to purchase food and medicine, with the rest going for the development of industries capable of making hard-currency profits in the near future.

Refugees in Afghanistan, Border Security's Main Problem

OW0102184093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1733 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Report by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The situation on the Afghan border and the return of refugees from Afghan territory are the most pressing problems now facing the government of Tajikistan on the threshold of the expected introduction into the republic of peacekeeping forces from four CIS member-states. Interfax was told by Tajik parliament Chairman Imamali Rakhmonov that a government commission will soon go to the Afghan city of Mazari-Sharif for meetings with refugees.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: Some sources suggest that some 50,000 refugees from Tajikistan are now in northern Afghanistan, located mainly in the Mazari-Sharif and Faizabad regions.

According to the parliament head, at the end of last week Interior Minister Yakub Salimov, People's Front Chairman Sangak Safarov, and a group of People's Front field commanders went to the Panj and Shaartuz stretches of the Tajik-Afghan border in order to resolve problems linked with the return of refugees.

The speaker emphasized that "frequent border violations from Afghanistan, from which the mujahedin are bringing large numbers of weapons, are hindering the process of repatriating refugees." He believes, however, that the violations are being perpetrated by groups not under control of the Kabul regime and "in no way reflect the position of the Afghan leadership."

The republic's leadership also intends to act more decisively on the border: in accordance with an agreement reached at the Minsk summit of Commonwealth heads of state, a state of emergency was introduced in border regions beginning at midnight on 30 January. This was done, stressed the Tajik leader, in order to guarantee the safety of returning refugees and to interdict the transportation of narcotics and weapons across the border. "There are too many illegally-held weapons in the republic," observed Rakhmonov, "for us to allow ourselves not to think about their importation from contiguous territory." Referring to a letter he recently received from Afghan leader Borhanoddin Rabbani, he expressed his faith in the neighborly character of relations between the two countries.

IF Note: Rakhmonov's first deputy, Abdulmajid Dostiyev, who heads the republic's official committee for refugee work, evaluates the situation more critically. In a recent interview with Interfax, he said that Kabul government officials have reacted indifferently to repeated appeals from the Tajik leadership regarding refugee problems. Under such conditions, Dostiyev thinks the absence of results by his committee is the natural outcome. In his opinion, the delegation, as a matter of fact, has been denied official status and guarantees of safety. "Up to now," summarized Dostiyev, "it has been unclear whether the official silence in Kabul is linked with their lack of desire to move forward in solving the Tajik refugee problem, or if the internal contradictions created by competing Afghan groups is the cause of the government's confusion."

As before, Dushanbe pins particular hope on Commonwealth peacekeeping forces to be deployed on the Tajik-Afghan border in accordance with the resolution passed at the Minsk CIS summit; the forces are to include four motor rifle battalions composed of 500 soldiers each.

The question of the timing of the arrival of the contingent, which will include Russian, Uzbek, Kazakh, and Kyrgyz servicemen, remains open, although by Rakhmonov's reckoning, the peacekeeping forces should begin to arrive at the border this week.

Rakhmonov believes that the forces "will offer tremendous moral support."

"We must show Afghanistan," he said, "that we are not alone. At any moment, the countries of the Commonwealth can assist us in guarding our borders, which are also CIS borders," said the parliament head.

He hopes that a concrete term of introduction of CIS peacekeeping forces will be named after negotiations with Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev.

IF Note: The Russian minister will visit Dushanbe on Friday 5 February at the invitation of the Tajik government.

Furthermore, recognizing the urgency of the participation of CIS members in guaranteeing a secure Tajik-Afghan border, various authoritative political figures throughout the CIS have recently spoken of the preferability of the rendering of humanitarian aid to the republic. Among them are CIS Unified Forces Supreme Commander Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, who believes that in addition to the military aspect of aid (his department is ready practically to cooperate in the formation of Tajik armed forces), it is essential "in stabilizing the situation in the republic" to offer it broader support in restoring an economy shattered by civil war.

Government Committee Sums Up 1992 Economic Results

LD0302094493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0912 GMT 3 Feb 93

[By KHOVAR TIA correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Dushanbe February 3 TASS—Practically all economic target figures were not attained in Tajikistan in 1992. According to the State Committee for Statistics, produced national income went down by 31 per cent in comparable prices. The total sum of credit investments into the national economy amounted to 96 billion roubles over the year, which testifies to bankruptcy of enterprises.

The state is in arrears to the population on payments. The fratricidal war inflicted great damage to the national economy. According to a report of the National Statistical Service, output in fuel and food industry went down by half, and in chemical and building materials industry was reduced more than two times.

Economic indicators also went down in transport and the agri-industrial complex.

Uzbekistan

Further on Official Visit by Iran's Velayati

LD0202154493 Tashkent UZBEKISTAN APN in Russian 1159 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] A delegation from the Islamic Republic of Iran is continuing its visit to Uzbekistan. It is headed by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati. The guests have already held talks with parliament speaker Shavkat Yuldashev and the leadership of the republic's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. During the visit documents will be signed concerning the improvement of bank calculations, coordinated customs activity, recovery of minerals, and also cooperation in science, culture, and tourism.

During a meeting at the Supreme Soviet of Uzbekistan 'Ali Akbar Velayati voiced satisfaction with the development of relations between Iran and Uzbekistan.

Today the Iranian delegation was received by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov.

Karimov Receives Delegation

LD0302125193 Tashkent Radio Tashkent Network in Russian 0145 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Islam Karimov, president of the Republic of Uzbekistan, on 2 February received a delgation from the Islamic Republic of Iran led by 'Ali Akbar Velayati, foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which is on an official visit to our country.

During the meeting President Islam Karimov pointed out that important documents which created wide possibilities for the development of the cooperation between our countries were signed in Iran last November. While stressing the practical importance of these documents, he (?mentioned) that especially construction of railways and highways and the opening of trade [words indistinct] and implementation of friendly economic relations will (?play an important role) in [words indistinct] joint aspects of our past culture.

Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati noted the significance of the Republic of Uzbekistan's leadership toward developing relations between our peoples. He noted that this effort was supported by Iran. [name indistinct], temporary (?representative) of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Uzbekistan, was also present during the meeting, which was conducted in a sincere and businesslike atmosphere.

Velayati, Karimov Discuss Cooperation

LD0302103093 Tehran IRNA in English 1003 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 3, IRNA—Iran and Uzbekistan Tuesday [2 February] underlined their readiness to further promote mutual ties and expand bilateral cooperation.

The call was made during a meeting between the visiting Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Uzbek President Islam Karimov in Tashkent yesterday.

Karimov underscored Iran's importance in linking the Central Asian countries to the world markets adding that heads of the republics in their January 4th summit meeting, approved to connect their logistic routes to the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean through Iran.

He voiced his country's readiness for the opening of an embassy in Tehran in a bid to facilitate expansion of diplomatic relations.

Referring to the last December letter of understanding signed between the two countries, Karimov called for full employment of the existing potentials in both the countries in this regard.

The Uzbek president also announced his country's readiness for joint ventures with Iran as well as for the investment of the Iranian private sector in his country.

In reply Velayati underscored the importance of regional cooperation and the need for the establishment of peace and tranquility in order to expand overall cooperation in this part of the world.

He said that the second meeting of the transportation ministers of Iran and the Central Asian states would be held in Tehran next spring. The first meeting was held in Alma-Ata, Kazakhstan.

The foreign minister touched on the rapid progress in the building of Mashhad-Sarakhs railways by Iran and welcomed Karimov's proposal for connecting the Central Asian railways to the Iran's nationwide railway network.

An agreement on road transportation is being worked out at present to transfer commodities of the Central Asian republics abroad through Iran's Khorasan Province and the Caspian Sea ports, he said.

Velayati also welcomed Uzbekistan's proposal for the establishment of Tashkent-Mashhad-Tehran air link.

In a separate meeting later the same day, Velayati who is also a pediatrician, visited a group of Uzbek university professors and replied to their questions on medical researches being conducted in Iran.

Visit Facilitates 'Friendly Links'

LD0302145193 Tashkent UZBEKISTAN APN in Russian 1202 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Following today's talks, Iranian Foreign Affairs Minister Velayati left Uzbekistan. Evaluating the results of the trip, Velayati said the visit had been fruitful and facilitated the strengthening of friendly links which have long historical roots.

Armenia

Background to Government's Resignation Presented

LD0202132293 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1158 GMT 2 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan, 2 Feb (TASS)—The resignation of the prime minister and the government of Armenia followed stormy debates this morning concerning the program for socioeconomic development and the budget of the republic as presented by the cabinet.

Yesterday evening Armenian Prime Minister Khosrov Arutyunyan stated in parliament that the draft program and budget under discussion reflected the point of view of the majority of cabinet members, but that he personally did not agree with these documents.

Following this sensational statement the members of parliament unanimously called for the resignation of the cabinet, and this was the general stance taken on this issue by both the deputies from the ruling Armenian National Party and by virtually the entire opposition.

President Levon Ter-Petrosyan of Armenia called an end to the strained discussion, and announced today that he is relieving Khosvor Arutyunyan of the duties of prime minister. In the president's view, the prime minister has committed an unprecedented violation of political ethics and presented a draft socioeconomic development and budget program on behalf of the government when he did not agree with it himself. The president apologized to parliament on behalf of the government for "four days of fruitless discussions," and asked that they return to work on the draft under discussion. He said that the new government will be presented within a week. Meanwhile he asked members of the present government to continue carrying out their duties.

Ter-Petrosyan Explains Prime Minister's Resignation

NC0202140993 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1300 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] As we already reported, Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan issued an important statement in parliament today. Ter-Petrosyan said that until last night, the program presented by the government [word indistinct] appeared to be normal. The debate [words indistinct]. The president said that in such a situation the procedure to be followed was simply to return the program to the government, but a bizarre event took place during yesterday's session. Prime Minister Khosrov Arutyunyan criticized the program that the government unanimously endorsed and that he signed. Ter-Petrosyan described this as [words indistinct].

The president informed deputies that a National Security Council meeting was held late last night. The prime minister explained, but this did not satisfy him. [Words indistinct] Khosrov Arutyunyan could have persuaded government members to reject the program and thus could have avoided putting the government, parliament, and the president in a difficult position. Under the circumstances, the only alternative was the prime minister's resignation, Levon Ter-Petrosyan declared. He said he had signed a decree relieving the prime minister of his duties. Concluding his statement, the president asked parliament to resubmit the program and [words indistinct] adopt a month's budget. Because the prime minister's resignation also means the dissolution of the entire government, the president said he will present a new government within a week.

Afterward [words indistinct], Ter-Petrosyan published the following decree relieving Khosrov Melikovich Arutyunyan of the duties of prime minister, that is, relieving him of his duties as head of government.

With the second point of the decree, the president accepted the resignation of the Armenian Government.

The third point instructed the Armenian Government to continue its duties pending the formation of a new government.

The decree temporarily placed the job of running the republic's government with Deputy Prime Minister Grant Araratovich Bagratyan.

Turkey Agrees To Allow Transit of Aid

PM0202134393 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Feb 93 First Edition p 7

[ITAR-TASS report under "Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow" rubric: "Aid Will Go Via Turkey"]

[Text] At a meeting with an Armenian delegation in Ankara Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel stated his agreement to foreign aid being supplied to Armenia via Turkish territory.

At the talks with the Armenian president's advisers he pointed out the need for the earliest resolution of the problem of Nagorno-Karabakh and observed that Turkey will be able to help Armenia fully only after the conflict has been settled. At the same time the Turkish side refused to sell electricity to Armenia.

Ter-Petrosyan Insists on Activating Nuclear Plant

OW0202151093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1429 GMT 02 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Levon Ter-Petrosyan is ready to assume the responsibility for putting the Armenian nuclear power plant back into operation, the president's press secretary Ruben Shugaryan, told INTERFAX. He confirmed that Levon Ter-Petrosyan insisted on the resumption of the nuclear power plant's work in six months, not in two years, as Armenian experts propose.

Shugaryan also said that the final decision will be taken by the parliament. This question should hardly be solved during a referendum, although the president may resort to a referendum if individual parliamentary factions and parties decide to block his proposal. "The future of the nation is at stake," said Shugaryan. He also expressed hope that this time, the parliament will treat the problem with understanding.

Parliamentarian: Nagorno-Karabakh Belongs to Federation

OW0202153593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1515 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, Igor Porshnev, and Dimitriy Voskoboynikov: from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Arkadiy Manucharov, who is a member of two parliaments, Armenia's and Nagorno-Karabakh's, has sent a letter to the Russian embassy in Yerevan. Virtually the only way to settle the Karabakh crisis is to include Nagorno-Karabakh in the Russian Federation, he declared in his letter.

According to him, Nagorno-Karabakh "joined Russia under the Treaty of Gulistan signed in 1813," and no one has canceled that treaty. The decision to include Nagorno-Karabakh in Azerbaijan was taken in 1921 by the Caucasus bureau of the Russian Communist Party (Bolshevist) without taking into account public opinion, Manucharov stressed.

Clashes Updated, Loss of Aircraft Denied

NC0202164993 Yerevan Radio Yerevan in Azeri 1430 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Excerpts] Dear listeners, we now present a report on the latest incidents in the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] and on the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

The situation in Nagorno-Karabakh remains unstable. The Azerbaijani Armed Forces [AAF] have attacked the border rayons in Artsakh [Nagorno-Karabakh] a number of times and fired on them with various types of arms at short intervals. That was the nature of the clashes over the past week. The AAF lost many men and military vehicles.

The NKR Self-Defense Headquarters has reported that the AAF units subjected the Armenian self-defense positions in the northern part of the humanitarian corridor in Lachinskiy Rayon to an intensive wave of artillery shelling at 0730 on 31 January. The enemy infantry units tried to attack the Armenian self-defense positions around Budzhakh after a wave of preparatory shelling by their artillery units. However, the NKR armed units dealt strong blows on the enemy forces and forced them to retreat to their positions. According to eyewitnesses, the AAF units lost many men in the clashes. Initial reports said that an Armenian fighter was killed and eight others were wounded. The Armenian sources also said that the situation in the battlefronts was relatively peaceful last night and yesterday. [passage omitted]

Several observers believe that Azerbaijan is massing large groups of reinforcements and military vehicles in the rayons close to Nagorno-Karabakh and the residential areas it has occupied in Artsakh. Obviously, that indicates that the neighboring republic is preparing to launch new and wide-scale attacks on the NKR. Azerbaijan's leaders and chauvinist circles wish to resolve the dispute only through the use of armed force. The proposals they have made conflict with the freedom the people of Artsakh have gained through their struggle for national independence.

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry has distorted the facts once again. It has claimed that Agdam and Fizuli have been shelled from the NKR with artillery guns. It has also claimed that Azerbaijan's air defense units hit and destroyed an Armenian helicopter over the northern part of Nagorno-Karabakh the previous night. The same source reported that three Armenian military aircraft were hit and destroyed last week.

The Armenian Defense Ministry and the NKR Self-Defense Headquarters have denied Azerbaijan's claims, announcing that Azerbaijan's reports are unfounded.

Azerbaijan's mass media organs have claimed that wide-scale attacks have been launched from Armenia on several border rayons in Azerbaijan. These claims are also fabricated. The Armenian Defense Ministry Press Service reported that the situation along the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan was peaceful yesterday and the night before. Why do the [word indistinct] circles in Azerbaijan distort the facts? Undoubtedly, they wish to justify their effort to maintain their attacks on NKR and Armenia. [passage omitted]

We wish to conclude this report by describing the situation around the humanitarian corridor in Lachinskiy Rayon. The NKR self-defense forces still control the corridor. Traffic is moving there without any obstruction. Peaceful commodities, including fuel, provisions, and drugs, are transported through the corridor to Artsakh. Let us also stress that the refugees from Artsakh are returning to their homeland.

Azerbaijan

President Congratulates Clinton, Appeals for Peace Moves

LD0202152193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1511 GMT 2 Feb 93

[By AZERTAC correspondents Sevindzh Abdullayeva and Natan Barskiy]

[Text] Baku February 2 TASS—"Upper Karabakh, which is an inalienable part of Azerbaijan, is populated not only by Armenians, but Azeris as well, and we believe it necessary that the peace talks in Minsk take into account the opinion of both the Armenian and Azerbaijani communities," Azerbaijani President Abulfaz Elchibey said in a letter to U.S. President Bill Clinton.

Elchibey congratulated Clinton on his inauguration as U.S. President and drew his attention to the position of his republic on the Nagorno-Karabakh talks. The Azerbaijani side calls for solving all problems through peace negotiations, while opponents torpedo all peace-keeping efforts that are being made on this thorny and difficult issue, Elchibei said.

Elchibey called on Clinton to make his contribution to the efforts for promoting peace and stability in the region.

Elchibey Meets U.S. Envoy; Congress Delegation To Visit

OW0202213393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2002 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Monday [1 February] in Baku the U.S. Ambassador to Azerbaijan, Richard Miles, declared that a delegation of the U.S. Congress will probably arrive to Azerbaijan at the end of this week to discuss issues concerning humanitarian aid granted to the republic. The Ambassador reported about this during his meeting with President Abulfaz Elchibey which was organized at the request of the American diplomat.

According to the press service of the Azeri President, in the course of this meeting the parties also discussed the issues on humanitarian aid which the U.S. administration intends to render to Nakhichevan and Karabakh.

Earlier the United States suspended rendering of humanitarian aid to Azerbaijan due to Baku's attitude with respect to conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Elchibey Proclaims Mobilization in Lachinskiy Rayon

PM0202140393 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Feb 93 p 7

[Correspondent Karen Topchyan report: "Lachin Corridor Is Stumbling Block"]

[Text] Yerevan—Information has reached us that Azerbaijan's President Abulfaz Elchibey has signed an edict announcing the mobilization in Lachinskiy Rayon of men liable to military service aged 18 to 40 who lived there prior to last May. It might seem that this is another in a series of similar wartime documents adopted in that neighboring country in recent months, but only at first glance.

This is what Armen Dulyan, chief of the Republic of Armenia Ministry of Defense Press Service, said about the Azerbaijan president's edict in a conversation with me: "The statements that the Lachin Corridor is controlled by the Armenian Expeditionary Corps are false. Only troops of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic Self-Defense Forces are to be found in that 20-km-long area. The concentration of considerable Azerbaijani forces south and north of Lachin gives grounds for thinking that a new offensive is likely in the next few days."

In the opinion of observers in Yerevan, the document signed by Abulfaz Elchibey is evidence of the failure of the recent mission carried out by Mario Rafaelli, chairman of the CSCE-sponsored Minsk Conference on Nagorno-Karabakh, since the Lachin humanitarian corridor was one of the main stumbling blocks to the diplomatic efforts to halt the fighting.

Citizens Asked To Join Liberation Brigade

NC0202220393 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] The Azerbaijani Defense Ministry Analytical Information Center's communique reads:

The situation in the battlefronts was relatively peaceful last night and today. The Azerbaijan military subunits have continued to fortify their positions.

Azerbaijan joined the countries that signed the CSCE convention on the reduction of conventional arms on 31 March 1992. Several groups of inspectors arrived in our republic and visited the Azerbaijani National Army units in 1992. According to the agreement that was reached, a group of experts from France visited our republic from 26 to 28 January. They were given the opportunity to inspect various military units.

Here is an announcement: The moral obligation of our citizens is to defend our territory at this difficult time. Azerbaijan's national hero Shamil Tagiyev has urged the sons of our homeland who wish to join the Kurtulus [Liberation] Brigade, which has taken part in the liberation of a large part of our territory from occupation, to go to Terter City. Those who wish to join the brigade should bring a military [word indistinct] and two 3 by 4 cm photographs.

The Terter Brigade Headquarters deeply thanks the people of Kobradkend in Debele Rayon for the support they have given to the brigade this winter.

Russia Urged To Increase Imports, Reduce Import Taxes

LD0202205993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1955 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Baku February 2 TASS—Azerbaijan and Russia began talks in Moscow on Tuesday [2 February] to discuss Russian imports to Azerbaijan following the introduction of new customs tariffs in Russia on February 1.

The Azerbaijani delegation stressed that economic relations between Azerbaijan and Russia are closely connected with their political and military cooperation. Therefore all economic problems should not be solved separately, for economic losses will inevitably affect other spheres of cooperation, the delegation said.

Azerbaijan requested Russia to increase import quotas and reduce the 65 per cent import tax for goods imported by Azerbaijan.

The Russian side expressed understanding of Azerbaijan's concerns and agreed to expand the list of goods subject to export to Azerbaijan. However, this will not apply to non-ferrous metals, the press service of the Azerbaijani president said on Tuesday.

A decision on Azerbaijan's request for lower import tax can be made only after the leaders of the two republics reach an agreement which would allow Russia to trade with Azerbaijan by rules it uses in trade with other CIS states.

Georgia

Government, Russians, Abkhazians Discuss Tkvarcheli Aid

Georgian Presence at Aid Talks Demanded

OW0202140493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1343 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Thursday [as received], the Russian and Abkhazian delegations which are having talks in Sochi on the resumption of supplies of humanitarian aid to the besieged city of Tkvarcheli, demanded that Georgia send its representative to the talks.

Marina Ryklina, Press Secretary of Russia's State Committee for Extraordinary Situations, informed INTERFAX that the Georgian delegates attending the talks only listen to the Russian and Abkhazian delegations' statements and proposals. Subsequently, they telephone to Sukhumi and Tbilisi to coordinate positions.

Ryklina also said that on Tuesday, the Georgian authorities allowed the Russian helicopters to airlift humanitarian aid from Sochi to Tkvarcheli. The Georgian authorities insist that these helicopters fly back empty.

Meanwhile, Russian rescuers report from besieged Tkvarcheli that the situation in that city remains complicated, particularly in the predominantly Russian districts, said Marina Ryklina. There are seriously ill people; many of the elderly residents are on the verge of starvation and about 200 infants are in need of baby food. Many people have concentrated on the site where the helicopters landed.

Ryklina said that the Georgian position cannot be accepted by the Russian and Abkhazian delegations, because it goes against the earlier reached agreements. Moreover, if the helicopter pilots refuse to take sick and dying children on board, panic may begin, threatening to evolve into a catastrophe with unpredictable circumstances. "We cannot sacrifice the lives of our people," said Ryklina.

Russia Protests Suspension

LD0202161193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1551 GMT 2 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Irina Shchegoleva]

[Text] Sochi February 2 TASS—Russia has protested against Georgia's ultimatum prohibiting Russian aid helicopters delivering humanitarian aid to besieged Tkvarcheli from evacuating refugees from the city.

Members of the Russian State Commission for Emergency Situations urged Georgian authorities in Sukhumi to send their representative to Sochi to discuss the situation. Abkhazian Deputy Prime Minister Akakiy Kasvianiy is expected to arrive in Sochi later today.

Abkhazia Must Fulfill Agreements

LD0202164793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1557 GMT 2 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tengiz Pachkoria]

[Text] Sukhumi February 2 TASS—The Abkhazian Council of Ministers and the Georgian Military Command in Abkhazia reiterated their readiness to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid to the city of Tkvarcheli, the Abkhazian Ministry of Information said on Tuesday [2 February].

At the same time, the Georgian side insisted that Abkhazia fulfil preliminary agreements reached by U.N. officials, Russia, Georgia and Abkhazia on January 23-24, 1993.

Under the agreements, Abkhazia should carry out a representative evacuation from the besieged city, according to which the number of people of different nationalities subject to evacuation should depend on their total number in the city.

Georgia warned that if Abkhazia does not restore the balance between the Abkhazian, Georgian and Russian evacuees which it broke on January 31, it will insist on the termination of evacuation from Tkvarchel.

Georgia said, however, it is ready to resume humanitarian aid to Tkvarchel, but without evacuating refugees from the city.

The ministry said Georgia has informed the United Nations, Russia and Abkhazia about its decision.

Russia Protests Aid Obstruction

LD0202174693 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1500 GMT 2 Feb 93

[By correspondent A. Melkonyan from Sochi, including recording of comments by M. Ryklina, director of the press center of the Russian State Committee for Emergency Situations; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] Today the authorities in the town of Sukhumi again refused to allow humanitarian aid to be delivered from Sochi to Tkvarcheli. The action has been suspended in spite of the assurances of the government of Georgia that it would do everything possible to ensure that deliveries can be carried out efficiently.

[Melkonyan] Helicopters carrying humanitarian aid intended for the residents of the besieged town of Tkvarcheli have already been standing at Sochi airport for 48 hours now. This time wasted in idleness is costing Russia, which is rendering this humanitarian aid under UN auspices, many millions in expenditure.

[Ryklina] The day before yesterday, under the pretext that the principle of proportionality is not being fulfilled in transporting people of Abkhazian, Georgian, and other nationalities out of Tkvarcheli, the Georgian side prohibited the continuation of the process, thereby violating the accord reached with such difficulty on the solution of issues in dispute solely by means of talks. Today the Georgian side permitted the delivery of humanitarian cargoes to resume, after prohibiting evacuation, which is definitely unacceptable.

We are very much hoping that the arrival in Adler of the authorized representative of Georgia, that the solution of all the issues in dispute here on the spot will accelerate this process, and that humanitarian aid will again go to Tkvarcheli in the immediate future, and the sick women and children can leave for Gudauta, Sukhumi, and Sochi.

[Melkonyan] Moreover, every hour information is coming in from Tkvarcheli, where there is a rescue group, that the Russian-speaking population are experiencing a real disaster. There are very many sick people. There are those who have already perished of starvation. Any procrastination regarding the humanitarian aid results in deaths among the civilian population.

Agreement Reached on Sending Aid

OW0202181193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1800 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Official sources in Georgia's leadership reported that the participants of the Russian-Georgian negotiations held on Tuesday in Tbilisi reached an agreement to resume flight with humanitarian cargoes from Sochi to Tkvarcheli. According to the decision of the parties, in the near future the authorities of Sukhumi and Tkvarcheli will consider the issues concerning proportional transportation of population of different nationalities.

The Georgian side asserts that violation of national proportionality during evacuation forced it to suspend flights to Tkvarcheli which is besieged by Georgian forces.

Five Helicopters Tasked

LD0302053093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0447 GMT 3 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Moscow, 3 Feb—Five helicopters with humanitarian cargo will fly to Tkvarcheli today. An agreement on this was attained following talks between authorized representatives of all the sides in Adler, which ended late last night, a correspondent learned by telephone from the operational group of the Russian state committee for emergency situations in Sochi.

According to the agreement, all Georgians who wish to leave—16 people—will be evacuated from Tkvarcheli today. The same number of Abkhazians are also going to be evacuated. There are no limits regarding the Russian-speaking population.

Also today, representatives of Russia, Georgia, and Abkhazia, one from each side, will fly to Tkvarcheli to study the situation and specify mechanisms for distributing aid and evacuating the population. According to the signed protocol, the Georgian side has pledged to make a decision before 5 February on increasing the number of daily flights of Russian helicopters with humanitarian aid.

Helicopters Reach Tkvarcheli

OW0302155293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1543 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Three Russian Mi-8 and two Mi-6 helicopters on Wednesday [3 February] reached the city of Tkvarcheli, which is being besieged by Georgian forces, with humanitarian aid shipments. Two Mi-8s have already returned to Sochi. Interfax was informed of the mission's status at the Sochi headquarters of the Russian State Commission for Emergency Situations. The helicopters, said the headquarters representative, delivered approximately 18-19 tons of food to Tkvarcheli, including flour, sugar, potatoes, and cereals.

The returning helicopters, said the representative, evacuated about 50 refugees from the city. Georgian refugees were left in Sukhumi, Abkhazians in Gudauta.

The next flight to Tkvarcheli is scheduled for Thursday. The Russian helicopters are expected to deliver a total of 139 tons of foodstuffs to the city.

Abkhaz Defense Ministry Warns of Government Offensive

LD0202195193 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 2 Feb 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Tripartite consultations were held in Adler today between Abkhazia, Georgia, and Russia on the resumption of humanitarian flights to the blockaded town of Tkvarcheli. The results of this meeting are not yet known. According to a report from the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Abkhazia, the Georgian side is building up personnel and hardware in Sukhumi and regrouping its troops with the aim of going on the offensive.

Georgian artillery shelled the military laboratory, guarded by Russian paratroopers, in Eshera today. Damage was caused and fortunately, no one was hurt. Abkhazia's journalists are very concerned for the fate of television correspondents who are still being held captive by the Georgians.

'Sporadic Gunfire' in Sukhumi; Fighting in Shroma

LD0202153093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1434 GMT 2 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tengiz Pachkoria]

[Text] Sukhumi February 2 TASS—A fragile lull that has set in in Abkhazia was broken several times by sporadic gunfire by the Abkhazian side last night. The situation remained calm throughout the rest of the night and in the morning, the press centre of the Georgian Military Command in Sukhumi said on Tuesday [2 February].

Abkhazian militants fired on Georgian positions near the village of Shroma in the Sukhumi District late on Monday and attacked other Georgian posts from an armoured personnel carrier. Georgian troops retaliated with artillery shelling, forcing the Abkhazians to retreat. Two Georgian and four Abkhazian militants were wounded, according to preliminary information.

Parliament Discusses Conflict, Takes No Action

OW0302144693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1403 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] During a closed session on Tuesday [2 February], the Georgian Parliament discussed the situation in Abkhazia.

According to well-informed sources in Tbilisi, the discussion was rather emotional. Some of the deputies and representatives of the Sukhumi authorities, who were invited to the session, insisted that combat operations be intensified.

The deputies also raised the question of relations between Russia and Georgia, because in their opinion the settlement of the Abkhazian problem largely depends on Russian-Georgian relations. They also complained that they were not fully informed of the Georgian-Russian talks in Tbilisi.

The parliament took no specific decisions concerning the situation in Abkhazia.

Deputy Minister: Talks on Russian Troops 'Success'

OW0202150193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1428 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Tuesday [2 February], the Russian and Georgian delegations continued their talks on the legal status of the Russian troops stationed in Georgia.

Georgia's Deputy Defence Minister Tamaz Tskhakaya said that the talks are a success and that the negotiating parties are making mutual concessions.

However, Tskhakaya ruled out the possibility of Abkhazian representatives joining the talks, because "Abkhazia is part of Georgia, not an independent state."

Russian Anti-Aircraft Unit Attacked 2 Feb

LD0302110493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1050 GMT 3 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Moscow February 3 TASS—A Russian anti-aircraft unit was attacked in Georgia on Tuesday [2 February] afternoon. The attack was staged by 17 armed people, a spokesman for the press service of the Russian Defence Ministry told ITAR-TASS today. The attackers were disarmed by Russian soldiers. Nine automatic submachine-guns were confiscated. No casualties were reported.

Six armed people captured in Tbilisi on Tuesday night a Gaz-66 truck, two submachine-guns and a radio station belonging to the Transcaucasian Military District. According to the press service of the Russian frontier guard troops, there were no casualties among the frontier guards.

Shevardnadze Opposes Ethnic Trouble in Turkey

OW0202150393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1429 GMT 02 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Head of Georgia Eduard Shevardnadze told Turkish journalists in Tbilisi that the involvement of ethnic Georgians living in Turkey in the Abkhazian conflict was out of the question. "Although a small group of Turkey's ethnic Abkhazians is involved in this conflict, we do not want to set Turkey's ethnic Georgians and Abkhazians against each other, because this may destabilize the situation in Turkey," he said.

To quote Shevardnadze, Turkey's well-being is inseparable from Georgia's interests.

Estonia

Government Denounces Bosnian, Croatian Violence

LD0202153693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1521 GMT 2 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Maloveryan]

[Text] Tallinn February 2 TASS—The Estonian government has made a statement to denounce violence in Bosnia and Croatia, which has resulted in large-scale extermination of people, resettlement of millions of people and pillage in towns and settlements.

The statement stressed, being a multi-national state, where representatives of various cultures and religions peacefully live together, Estonia cannot put up with the Serbian policy of extermination and denounces genocide attempts resulting from it.

The government of the Estonian Republic is concerned over repeated ignoring of the U.N. Security Council sanctions and U.N. attempts to stop fire exchanges. All U.N. member-countries are responsible for the recognition and fulfilment of actions taken on the U.N. initiative and aimed to consolidate peace and stability in hot beds.

As a state, which supports decisions of the United Nations General Assembly of December 17, 1992, "On Situation in Bosnia and Hercegovina", Estonia demands that both sides keep to the U.N. decisions and sanctions, which aim at the termination of the conflict.

If violence continues, the Estonian government will support the U.N.-approved military interference aiming to restore peace in the region, says the statement.

Defense Ministry Changes Decision on Russian Reinforcements

LD0202164293 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1500 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] It was said at the government news conference today that Estonia will allow no reinforcements to be brought in for the Russian military units stationed here. Defense Minister Hain Rebas annulled his 21 January instruction which allowed Russian military unit 12129 to bring 250 soldiers into Estonia. The Estonian border guard department has been informed of the agreement about the annulment, of the annulment of the instruction, as have the commanders of the Russian troops stationed here.

This was a case of a major miscalculation in the Defense Ministry's internal policy, which is being seriously scrutinized at the ministry, Hain Rebas said at the news conference. Hain Rebas stated that the 21 January instruction was a mistake resulting from poor information.

Plan To Buy Israeli Weapons Called Rumor

WS0202130393 Tallinn BNS in English 0949 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Tallinn, Feb 01, BNS—Commenting upon the information of ITAR-TASS as if Israel had promised to credit Estonia with USD 50 million for buying weapons, Enn Luutre from the Estonian Defence Ministry told BNS that "most probably it is just rumour".

Last week, the ITAR-TASS news agency, referring to the US "Philadelphia Inquirer" paper, reported that for the credit, Estonia is going to buy Israeli automatic "Uzis", and antiaircraft missiles "Stinger". According to the paper, the information was confirmed by Estonian diplomat Eerik Kross. Kross is reported to have said that Estonia has for a long time expressed wish to buy weapons from other states, but the Western countries have not wanted to sell weapons to Estonia that is considered a crisis region.

On December 11, commander of the Estonian Defence Forces General Staff colonel Ants Laaneots told BNS that "the Estonian defence forces will have to start using Western armament and ammunition". According to Laaneots, it is a political and conceptual question that is being solved on the highest level. "For Estonia, the source of danger is in the East. But if we have to counter the eastern threat with eastern arms, there may crop up problems with getting the ammunition," Laaneots said.

Also, Minister of Defence Hain Rebas has said that Estonia is going to integrate into the West in state defence as well. According to the minister, there are "four different variants" for purchasing armament under consideration.

Late last year, former Defence Ministry employee Toomas Puura and chairman of the board of the Estonian "Revalia" bank Leonid Apanaski visited Israel.

Laar on Davos Meeting, Market Economy, Human Rights

WS0202130193 Tallinn BNS in English 0947 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Tallinn, Feb 01, BNS—At the informal meeting of European heads of the state in Davos, Switzerland, Estonia again proved it is a "democratic state headed for market economy and led by a leadership pursuing the ideals of market economy," Premier Mart Laar told the press after his visit to Hungary and Switzerland.

Laar said that the West is beginning to realize that there is nothing wrong with human rights in Estonia. The speech of Sergey Stankevich, counselor to President Russia, where he called attention continuing violation of human rights in the Baltic states was taken no notice of while great attention was paid at the press conference to the Russian army withdrawal deadlines.

Laar considered the visit a positive one and said that its direct benefit will manifest itself in would-be investments and green lights to the Western market.

According to Laar, a joint economic-commercial commission was discussed in Hungary. This would mean the revival of goods exchange that has fallen off by now. "Hungary is interested in the markets north of Estonia while Estonia is interested in the markets around Hungary," Laar said.

State defence was also discussed. Co-operation will be initiated in the field since Hungary has got experience in creating their own army and integrating into NATO.

The Premier said he has been well posted on the events in Estonia. However, he was unwilling to comment on the possible candidature of Toomas Sildmae to the post of Minister of Economics saying that the press will be informed on Tuesday [2 February].

Says Forum 'Very Beneficial'

OW0202195493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1730 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Report by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Estonian Prime Minister Mart Laar considered the results of the economic forum in Davos very beneficial for the Baltic states.

Appearing before journalists who met him at the Tallinn airport Monday evening, the head of the Estonian government said the forum in Switzerland will encourage Western investment in the Estonian economy.

He viewed positively the fact that "the issue of human rights in Estonia was not emphasized" in Davos. High-ranking Russian politicians have already played that card, Laar said. He added that the main interest was on the withdrawal of Russian troops from Estonia. "It's obvious that more and more the awareness is developing that nothing special is happening with human rights in Estonia," Laar stressed.

Evaluating the results of the trip to Hungary which Laar made after Switzerland, he said the main focus there was on the development of trade and economic relations, which are currently in a condition of definite stagnation. In order to revive them, the parties agreed to form a special Estonian-Hungarian commission of representatives from various ministries. In Budapest they also discussed collaboration in the defense realm, the prime minister reported. "Estonia is in need not only of weapons, but also experience from Hungary in forming its own army and advancing along the lines of NATO."

Laar said that in Hungary they also discussed the circumstances of the Finno-Ugric people in Russia. "Estonia and Hungary decided—in this instance the emphasis is mainly on Hungary, since it is a full member of the European Council—to raise the issue at the European Council. This was the most important decision in our policy toward the circumstances of these people in Russia."

Latvia

Russian Helicopter Detained by Ventspils Border Guards

OW0202173193 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1716 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The commander of Kaliningrad group of Russian border guard troops, Maj Gen Rakhmaninov, is conducting talks with his Latvian counterparts, requesting that they return to Russia its MI-8 helicopter which is being kept by them.

A spokesman for the command of the Russian border guard troops told Baltfax that on January 29 the helicopter was detained by Latvian border guards at Ventspils airport where it landed to take aboard a group of Russian border guard officers. In the words of the Russian spokesman, the Latvian border guards took advantage of the helicopter's coming to Ventspils without an authorized flight plan and confiscated the crew's IDs and the flying chart.

Godmanis Optimistic About Economic Development

AU0202171693 Munich SUEDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG in German 2 Feb 93 p 22

[Report signed "H.M.": "We Strictly Continue Our Reform Course"]

[Text] Davos—The Republic of Latvia, which has been an independent state since 1991, has made good progress on its road to reforms during those 16 months. The key elements are privatization and a strict monetary policy that keeps exactly to the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) instructions. The success is that since half a year, the exchange rate of the Latvian ruble to the U.S. dollar has remained constant, even though the domestic currency is fully convertible. The inflation rate decreased from 50 percent per month in the past to 2 percent now.

In a SUEDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG interview on the fringes of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Latvian Prime Minister Ivars Godmanis said he is optimistic that further progress will also be made this year. He is not dissatisfied with what has so far been achieved—full membership in the United Nations, the IMF, and the World Bank, and the conclusion of a trade agreement with the EC. IMF membership in particular has proved its worth. Latvia is the first Baltic state to work out a program with the IMF, and is strictly acting on it, says Godmanis.

The IMF has recognized this and has paid out the first two tranches of $10 million each of the credits agreed upon. The World Bank contributed $45 million, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in London made available the same sum, and $30 million came from Japan, said Godmanis. The money went via the Latvian Investment Bank into private and infrastructure investments. In the private area, the means were primarily invested in the wood industry and the fishing sector. Godmanis intends to conclude an association agreement with Brussels as soon as possible, and he is hopeful that it will be possible to achieve full EC membership before the end of this decade.

The Latvians are very concerned about the development of the ruble rate. Because foreign trade is still almost exclusively oriented toward the East, particularly Russia, the dramatic devaluation of the Russian currency with the simultaneously stable Latvian currency is an ever heavier burden for the Latvian economic sector, says Godmanis. It is essentially because of this phenomenon that industrial production last year decreased 35 percent and will decrease by another 10 percent in 1993, unless the situation changes soon.

Small Unemployment

Nonetheless, according to the Latvian prime minister, the unemployment rate is no more than 2.5 percent. Qualifying this figure, he says, however, that it could increase to more than 10 percent in the course of the year when the large companies will be privatized that are still run by the state. Agriculture and trade are already privatized.

According to Godmanis, the Latvian gross national product was approximately 300 billion Latvian rubles in 1992 (one dollar corresponds to 167 Latvian rubles). Industry contributes roughly 45 percent to this, 25 percent come from the agricultural sector—according to Godmanis, with the exception of wheat, Latvia produces surpluses that go primarily to Russia—and 14 percent are various types of services. He mentioned about 3,000 existing joint ventures, most of them with German firms. He said that liberal laws were adopted last year that allow foreigners to lease land for 99 years, but his government is currently trying to guarantee foreign investors full ownership of land.

Those who invest hard currency in Latvia are exempt from taxes for two years, but after that, taxes are also moderate. The profits tax for private companies is 25 percent, there are no import duties, except for several agricultural products. Entrepreneurs have, however, to pay 37 percent of the wage sum for social security, whereas employees have to pay no more than 1 percent. This proportion will be changed soon, says Godmanis. According to the prime minister, the well trained labor force and a good infrastructure with Riga as a productive seaport are an essential argument for foreign investors to commit themselves in Latvia.

In June this year, Godmanis is facing elections with his People's Front, which won approximately 75 percent of the votes in 1991. Even though he is aware that by the rapid change to a market economy system he has imposed a heavy burden on the citizens, he is confident nonetheless that he will be the winner again, because he believes that the people in Latvia understand what this process is about.

Lithuania

Chechen President's Arrival Causes 'Confusion'

WS0202130893 Vilnius ELTA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1511 GMT 1 Feb 93

[From ELTA "NEWS BULLETIN" No. 176]

[Text] 1 February 1993—On January 29 the President of the Republic of Chechen Dzhokhar Dudayev came to Vilnius.

The guest was received by the acting Chairman of the Lithuanian Seimas Ceslovas Jursenas, he was also met by representatives of the Seimas factions. The leader of the Chechen republic is visiting Lithuania by the invitation of the parliamentarian group for the relations with the Republic of Chechen.

According to the Lithuanian dailies, the visit has caused some confusion. Just before the visit the Vilnius airport service received an radiogram from the Chechen capital Groznyy informing that a delegation of the Chechen government is on its way to Vilnius. The composition of the delegation was not presented. On January 29 the Vilnius air traffic controllers fixed an unscheduled plane and did not allow it to land. After that, the plane's identification was cleared up and the President of the Chechen republic was met as a private person by representatives of the Seimas' oppositional bloc "Mother-country's Concord".

The relations with the Republic of Chechen were established during the USSR imposed economic blockade on Lithuania. The Chechen President Dudayev visited Lithuania before the declaration of the Independent Chechen Republic (it used to be a former autonomic republic of Russia). The President of the republic was invited to visit Lithuania for the second time, however, due to the changing political and economic situation in Lithuania, the visit was canceled by the former Lithuanian Parliament. Though the President of the Chechen republic was not informed about the cancellation of the visit.

Discusses Independence, Oil

WS0202130593 Tallinn BNS in English 0959 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Vilnius, Feb 01, BNS—The invitation to Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev came from the Group of

Chechen Friends in Lithuanian Parliament, said a press attache of the Lithuanian Parliamentary opposition.

The invitation telegram was signed by Vytautas Landsbergis, leader of the opposition.

The original invitation was open-ended. A telegram asking to postpone the visit was sent after it became clear that Landsbergis would be leaving for Tallinn. However the telegram did not reach the addressee.

The opposition leader and the Dudayev met Saturday [30 January]. Both sides discussed Chechen's international relations and the course of Chechen's independence negotiations of this country with Russia. Possibilities of oil supplies from Chechen to Lithuania were discussed, as well.

Dudayev asked for assistance to build the new capital of Chechen and said that Lithuanian builders who are currently working in Armenia could be used for this purpose.

Much attention was paid to possibilities of opening a flight between Vilnius and Groznyy (Chechen's capital). Dudayev suggested Groznyy has a stopover for Lithuanian flights to Mid-Asia and the Far East.

The Chechen President said that his country is willing to have similar conditions in Kaunas and Vilnius for Chechen airplanes flying to the West. He also suggested sending plane fuel to Lithuania, which could be used by both Lithuanian and Chechen airplanes. Dudayev also expressed a wish to train Chechen international pilots in Vilnius.

The Lithuanian side was also asked to assist in training Chechen customs officials and border defence employees.

The possibility of Chechen citizens obtaining visas at western country embassies in Vilnius was discussed as well.

Lithuanian parliamentary press attache stressed that Dudayev did not request any political recognition of the Chechen Republic from the Lithuanian side and added that this would not be necessary for the establishment of friendly relations.

The press attache also said that acting Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas regretted being unable to meet the leader of Chechen. Brazauskas found out about Dudayev's visit only on his departure for meetings with electors in Panevezys and said he regrets this diplomatic misunderstanding.

Butkevicius on Visit

WS0202130793 Tallinn BNS in English 1004 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Vilnius, Feb 01, BNS—"The way used by President of Chechen Dzhokhar Dudayev to come to Lithuania, is his chosen method of travelling," Lithuanian Defence Minister Audrius Butkevicius said at a press conference Monday [1 February]. He noted that Lithuanian Defence officials saw no reason to bar Dudayev's entry into Lithuania.

Butkevicius' statements Monday contradicted his earlier interpretations of the incident Friday and Saturday.

Butkevicius denied that Dudayev's airplane violated Lithuanian air space. The flight was anticipated, but not its passenger. Butkevicius said that the President and members of the Chechen delegation left all their weapons inside the airplane.

The Chechen President and members of the delegation requested Lithuanian visas, since the visit was unofficial, Butkevicius explained. This created an image that they were deliberately held at Vilnius airport.

Regarding unsanctioned transport of Russian soldiers to Lithuania, the minister said that the defense system discovered the transport only after additional 700 men had landed at a military airport in Kedainiai (central Lithuania).

Butkevicius said that the incident is both "political and legal" and that Russia violated the agreement on the troops withdrawal.

The minister said that the additional transport may be treated from a practical side, especially if these soldiers stimulate faster withdrawal of Russian paratroopers deployed in Lithuania. Butkevicius reminded that the 7th Russian paratrooper division should be completely withdrawn before Aug. 31, but estimations on both sides say the pull-out may be completed by the end of May.

Parliament To Ratify Consular Convention With Russia

OW0202173693 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1717 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Seimas of the Lithuanian Republic ratified on Tuesday [2 February] the Lithuanian-Russian consular convention which was signed in Moscow on September 8, 1992.

In an interview for Baltfax correspondent, acting speaker of the Lithuanian parliament Ceslovas Jursenas expressed hope that the Russian Supreme Soviet would also ratify this document in the near future. In his words, this will "undoubtedly have a positive role to play not only for upholding the rights an interests of the people, but it will also promote further cooperation between our countries in economic, political, social and other spheres."

The parliament also adopted a law outlining the procedures of purchase or leasing of land for diplomatic and consular missions of foreign states. The law provides that foreign states will either purchase of rent plots of land for their diplomatic and consular missions or receive then, in terms of reciprocity, for the allocation to Lithuanian of analogous plots of land on their territory.

Apart from that, foreign diplomatic missions will have the right to rent plots of land for the terms specified in the countries' bilateral agreements in that regard for up to 99 years. Foreign states will pay for the land allocated to them in hard currency in compliance with the provisions of the countries' bilateral agreements.

Lozoraitis Outlines Tasks for Next President

OW0202120693 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1116 GMT 2 Feb 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Lithuania will look ahead with confidence only if its economic, trade and other relations with Russia become normal, candidate to the post of Lithuanian president, Lithuania's Ambassador to the US Stasys Lozoraitis told BALTFAX.

He said that if elected, he will try to keep the balance between East and West, and maintain good and mutually advantageous relations with the nearest and distant neighbors.

He also noted that Lithuania should become a member of the European Council and other international organizations, all of which will provide it with economic and, if necessary, military guarantees.

Speaking about what he called dramatic economic situation in Lithuania, he said that a rational and active foreign policy may improve the economic situation. The future president should be able to convince potential investors, that putting money into Lithuania will pay back. Besides that, it is extremely important to ensure inner stability, adopt the necessary laws and create proper conditions for attracting foreign investors.

The privatization of state property, and the involvement of foreign capital in privatization, is vitally important for economic stabilization, he said.

Lozoraitis is supported by the majority of the right-wing and centrist parties and movements. He is convinced that he is strong enough to unite Lithuania. Such unification should be based on the common desire to build an independent, democratic and just state," he said.

Gives Platform

OW0202193293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1726 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Report by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Lithuania cannot be sure of its future unless it has normal trade, economic, and other relations with Russia, presidential candidate Stasys Lozoraitis, Lithuania's Ambassador to the United States, told Baltfax. Wishing success to President Boris Yeltsin, he said, "We have a vested interest in Russia being a democratic state."

Now, on the eve of the 21st century, one must drastically change one's mentality, the candidate said, ceasing to regard all neighboring states as one's potential enemies. "Let's assume that we are exceptionally good friends and neighbors, who can help each other and live in peace and friendship for many centuries," he said.

He reiterated that, if he becomes president, he will be attaching equal importance to relations with East and West. He would like Lithuania to have good-neighborly and mutually beneficial relations with all states, above all developing economic cooperation with them. Lithuania should join the Council of Europe as soon as possible, and other international organizations as well. This would, in his opinion, give the country "not only economic but also military guarantees if such become necessary."

Lozoraitis sees a rational and active foreign policy as one of the principal ways of normalizing the domestic economic situation, which he described as "dramatic." He said the future president should try and convince foreign business people that they can make considerable profits by making investments in Lithuania. However, he insisted that necessary conditions should be provided for this and relevant legislation passed. At present, foreign investment is insufficient, he said.

Lozoraitis regards further privatization of state property, making use of foreign capital, as the most effective way of achieving economic stabilization. "Investors should by no means be seen as people who come to plunder the country," he said. Returning property to its former owners, which has just begun, is an extremely complicated process, the candidate said. In his opinion, it would be practically impossible to carry it through without hurting some people. What, he thinks, is needed, are solutions acceptable to everybody, such as paying some form of compensation.

Lozoraitis, an independent candidate supported by the majority of right-wing and centrist parties and movements, said once again that he would be able to unite the nation. "I have not a fraction of doubt that, if I become president, all of us will stand under the same banner and will profess the same ideology," he said. "All of us want to live in an independent, democratic, rich, and just state." This is what provides a sound basis for unity, he said, and should be pointed out to all parties and population strata. They should cooperate to solve burning political, economic, and other problems, Lozoraitis said.

Gets Social Democrats' Support

OW0202120593 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1116 GMT 2 Feb 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] We need both Stasys Lozoraitis and Algirdas Brazauskas, the former as president and the latter as prime minister, Vice-Chairman of Lithuania's Social-Democratic Party and member of the Lithuanian Seimas, Vytenis Andriukaitis, announced during a briefing on Tuesday [2 February].

He also noted that the social-democrats were the initiators of nominating Lithuania's Ambassador to the US Stasys Lozoraitis candidate to the post of Lithuania's president.

Gets Kaunas Residents' Support

OW0202194693 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1717 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Most of the residents in Kaunas, the second in size city in Lithuania, will cast their ballots for Stasys Lozoraitis at the presidential elections on February 14. This conclusion was made by sociologists at the economic department of the Kaunas city administration during their survey on January 30-31.

46.4% out of 632 respondents in Kaunas say they will vote for Stasys Lozoraitis, while 44.1% give preference to Algirdas Brazauskas.

Such results of a public opinion poll, which are essentially different from the analogous surveys in the republic in the whole, are not surprising, considering that during the elections to the Seimas in October-November last year the candidates representing the Sajudis and organizations of the same orientation suffered a complete defeat throughout the republic while they succeeded in all the constituencies in Kaunas.

Voters Show 'Enthusiasm' for Presidential Candidates

OW0202194893 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1716 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Lithuanian mass media reports that electors are showing unusual activity at their meetings with the republic's presidential candidates, Algirdas Brazauskas and Stasys Lozoraitis. They compare this activity with the enthusiasm the Lithuanians displayed at the beginning of their movement for independence in 1988-1989.

The meetings reveal some earlier unknown facts from the candidates' biographies. Algirdas Brazauskas, for instance, admitted that his wedding ceremony in 1958, a year before he joined the Communist Party, was conducted in one of the Catholic churches in Kaunas.

"I am as much a Catholic as most of the Lithuanians," he said.